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TRANSLATIONS ON NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
No. 293

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BURMA

STATE COUNCIL REPORTS ON NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Mar 77 BK

[Text] According to the report of the State Council presented to the seventh meeting of the First People's Assembly, operations launched against narcotic drugs, which can cause national atrophy, destroyed 4,910 acres of poppy plantations in 22 townships in 6 states and divisions and 18,551 marijuana plants in 13 townships between 1 September 1976 and 28 February 1977.

During the operations, in 26 clashes with insurgents, 1,100,700 viss [1 viss equals 3.60 lbs] of opium and 10.8 kgs of heroin were seized. Moreover, special attention was paid to suppressing the production, trafficking and use of narcotic drugs and to taking action against those who abstained from undergoing treatment after registration.

In those regions where the cultivation of narcotic drug-producing plants is banned, 8,544,400 acres of poppy and other plants were destroyed and replaced with 8,423,830 acres of agricultural crops and 1,008,010 acres of fruit trees in 1976-1977. In 6 of the 16 townships where the cultivation of narcotic drug-producing plants is permitted under certain circumstances, arrangements are being made to replace the plants with 1,950,700 acres of agricultural crops and 70 acres of fruit trees. Pilot animal husbandry projects will also be introduced in Keng Tung, Lashio and Heho.

During the anti-drug campaign--"Operation Victory Fame" in the Northeast Military Command and "Operation Regional," "Operation Roaring Sky I," "Operation Destroy Enemy," "Operation Brave Victory," and "Operation Roaring Sky II" in the Eastern Military Command--94 packages of opium weighing over 1,800 viss and 47 packages of heroin weighing 10 kgs were seized.

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BURMA

CLANDESTINE POPPY PLANTATIONS DESTROYED IN LASHIO

Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 12 Mar 77 p 4 BK

[Text] Kulkai, 5 March--The members of "Operation Agati Phase 1, with the help of the regional populace, are destroying clandestine poppy plantations in villages within Lashio Township. The operation was jointly launched by the police force and the councils and departments concerned under the leadership of township police commander U Saw Myint and Maj Maung Soe of the 68th Infantry Regiment.

A total of 530 acres of clandestine poppy plantations have been razed in Man-ai and Panghong village tracts. The local populace as well as the owners of the plantations, who have been educated, participated in destroying the plantations.



CSO: 5300

BURMA

LARGE HEROIN SEIZURES REPORTED BY MANDALAY POLICE

Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 20 Mar 77 pp 4, 5 BK

[Text] Mandalay, 18 March--It has been learned that an operation launched under the direction of the Mandalay division of the People's Council and divisional police commander U Khin Maung against members of heroin gangs, who have been using various methods to secretly distribute heroin in Mandalay, has resulted in arrests and the seizure of heroin worth in the neighborhood of seven figures.

Inspector U Tin Than of the police special branch, together with a police force from the No 8 [police station], have arrested Tan Kate Shaung of Seiktara-Mahi Ward after seizing 21 one-pound bags of cocoa-colored No 2 heroin from his residence. The seizure was worth more than 2 million kyats. Tan Kate Shaung has been charged under sections 6(B) and 10(B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law and four members of the gang have been arrested in Lashio.

Moreover, Police Station No 4, Officer U Win Tun and ward councilors of Thuye-Tat Ward seized more than 400,000 kyats worth of heroin, together with documents and seals, from an insurgent who had come to Mandalay.

Also, Township No 1 People's Council chairman Capt Kyaw Dun, together with chairman U Ohn Hlaing of the township People's Council for Crime and a police force from No 5 [police station] seized 500,000 kyats worth of heroin from a drug dealer. After a confession from the dealer, a GMC car carrying heroin was seized in Maymyo.

Arrests have been made and action taken against notorious heroin dealers in town--Khin Myint Yi, Mi Cho, Hmwe Hmwe, Daw Tin Aye and Maung Hsu Gyar. The police are using four patrol cars about town to make arrests and take action against heroin as well as opium dealers.

CSO: 5300

BURMA

HEROIN USERS ARRESTED, HEROIN SEIZED IN MOULMEIN

Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 16 Mar 77 p 2 BK

[Excerpt] Moulmein, 15 March, by phone--Acting on information that some youths were injecting heroin, a police team led by the sub-inspector of police, U Toe Hlaing, and a private, Aye Lwin, of the Moulmein people's police station, stopped and searched the youths under Bridge No 4 at 0830 today. They arrested Ko Myo, alias Myo Myint Aung, of Taungbawdan Ward of the Moulmein Market, and Kala Bein, alias Aung Kyaw Myint. Along with one syringe and two needles, they found one penicillin bottle of heroin, three heroin cigarettes, and a piece of rope used in injecting heroin.

Acting on the information provided by the arrested youths, the police team later searched the residence of U Ya Kut of Daungmin Ward, Moulmein, and seized two packages of marihuana and a half a penicillin bottle of heroin. Action has been taken against them under sections 6(B), 10(B) and 33 [of the Narcotic Drugs Law].

CSO: 5300

BURMA

POLICE SEIZE 1 KG OF HEROIN IN MYITKYINA

Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 17 Mar 77 p 4 BK

[Text] Myitkyina, 9 March--Acting on a tipoff that members of a heroin gang were in the house of U Hpaw Yan Gam in east central hill village Tract No 6, Inspector U Hla Win and Sub-inspector U Soe Thein of the Intelligence Squad of the office of the Kachin State Police commander, together with witnesses and ward councilors--U Khin Maung Myint, U Kay Tan Gyi and U Htein Zone--raided the house and arrested five persons--Kwan Shin, Lo San, Madame Hkun Naung, Mar Ywe and Tan Baung Ywe--of Shan State's Lashio Township, together with a bag of heroin weighing 1 kg. The heroin, valued at 100,000 kyats in Myitkyina, is of a "Globe and Two Lions" brand.

Police station No 2 has charged all members of the heroin gang under sections 6(B) and 10(B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law and an investigation is being carried out to expose the retailers of the drug.

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BURMA

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZURE IN RANGOON--Rangoon, 19 March--Acting on information, sub-inspector U Aung Myint of Kyauktada police station, together with ward councilors, at 1800 yesterday searched two persons--Abraham alias Tin Maung of No 3 Kaba-aye Pagoda Road and Robert of No 235 (third floor) of Rangoon's 30th Street--who were found near the junction of Anawrahta and 34th Streets in Rangoon. Found on the two, who have been arrested and charged under sections 6(B) and 14(D) of the Narcotic Drugs Law, was a packet of heroin worth 30 kyats. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 20 Mar 77 p 2 BK]

HEROIN SEIZURE IN MAHLAING--Mahlaing, 16 March--Acting on information, traffic policeman Ko Than at 1000 yesterday at the Mahlaing car checkpoint searched a passenger bus shuttling between Meiktila and Myingyan. Found on a bus passenger, Kyaw Myint, of Sikh Temple Street, Ashay-pyin Ward of Meiktila, were two packets of heroin weighing about 3 ywes [1 ywe equals 0.0003 pound] each. Kyaw Myint has been charged under Section 6(B) of the Narcotic Drugs Law by the Mahlaing police station. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 20 Mar 77 p 5 BK]

POPPY PLANTATIONS--Hsenwi, 8 March--A group from "Operation Agati," assisted by the local populace, destroyed 60.15 acres of clandestine poppy plantations in Ho-nawng, Nanhpaka, Ho-ting, Mankyat, Ho-hpayat, Man Pang and Tamone villages in Kutkai township of northern Shan State. The campaign was launched from 15 February to 6 March. [Excerpt] [Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese 16 Mar 77 p 4 BK]

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MALAYSIA

RULING PARTY UMNO PLANS ANTIDRUG STRATEGIES

'More Serious Attention'

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Mar 77 p 9 BK

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sun.--UMNO's newly appointed special officer against drug abuse, Haji Radin Supathan, has drawn up several strategies for a total war against the problem.

His first move will be to issue directives requiring all branches, divisions and state liaison committees to set up their own antidrug units.

"I will also try to get the cooperation of all youth movements, voluntary organisations and trade unions so that the total war will be really effective," he said today.

His appointment was approved by the UMNO Supreme Council at its meeting on Thursday night at Sri Taman.

The next move will be to organise seminars in major towns, which will be attended by youth leaders, including UMNO youth, and other political parties and interested individuals.

"I plan to have the first seminar in the federal territory because it is one of the areas currently facing serious drug problems," he added.

"I have been involved in antidrug activities on my own since 1971 because I realise that such a move is necessary if we want to continue having healthy and responsible citizens in the future."

He will establish closer cooperation with all related institutions and authorities responsible for law and order.

Several UMNO youth leaders here supported Haji Radin Supathan's line of action and believed that his appointment was appropriate and timely.

The national UMNO youth executive secretary, Encik Saidin Thamby, said it was timely for UMNO to give more serious attention to the problem.

The Selangor UMNO youth secretary, Encik Fahmi Ibrahim, called on all UMNO members and leaders to give their fullest cooperation to enable Haji Radin Supathan to carry out his programmes effectively.

Encik Sidi Maasim of Damansara UMNO youth division hoped that Malay professionals, including doctors and lawyers, would assist Haji Radin Supathan.

Long-term Antidrug Campaign

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Mar 77 p 1 BK

[Text] Bentong, Sat--Home affairs Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie suggested today that a long-term campaign be carried out to make the people averse to drugs.

"We must keep on drumming in the people, right from kindergarten, about the evils of drugs until they avoid it like the Malays avoid pork."

Opening an information and leadership course of the Bentong UMNO division at the Sulaiman secondary school here, Tan Sri Ghazali said a sentence or two in the antidrug campaign over TV was not adequate.

He said what had become a matter of concern now was that the "disease" might spread to the security forces.

Tan Sri Ghazali proposed that a special committee be set up in every division and branch of UMNO.

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MALAYSIA

MINISTER GIVES DETAILS OF DRUG ABUSE IN SCHOOLS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Mar 77 p 8 BK

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Tues.--Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] today there were 183 cases of drug abuse in fully-assisted secondary and primary schools during the second half of 1975.

The figure included those who were in the experimental stage, those who took drugs occasionally, and those who were addicted.

However, he said only a negligible number of them were addicts, that is, those who depended on drugs physically and spiritually.

Replying to Encik Jaa-far Hamzah (NF [National Front]--Johore Baru), Dr Mahathir said the Education Ministry had taken the necessary steps to check the problem including the training of its officers in health education and counselling.

The ministry had sent circulars to all principals giving guidelines on procedures which should be taken if they detected a pupil involved in drug abuse.

The circular also contained a directive on the problem of smoking among pupils.

Dr Mahathir said if a pupil was involved in drugs he would be referred to a welfare officer for treatment and rehabilitation.

He would also be assisted to continue his education after discharge from the rehabilitation centre.

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MALAYSIA

MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITY: NO PLANS FOR URINE TESTS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Mar 77 p 5 BK

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Friday--The University of Malaya has no plans at the moment to make it compulsory for students entering the university to undergo urine tests for drugs.

Vice Chancellor Prof Ungku Aziz said this when commenting on reports that Thai universities were introducing such a regulation to detect drug abuse among its students.

Prof Ungku Aziz described the drug problem among his university students as "not a big one" from observations of previous years.

"However, if there is a problem outside, there will be one inside definitely," he said.

Observations of new entries reflected the situation outside the university, he added.

He said the university was studying the problem and had devised a system, but he did not elaborate. This did not include a urine test requirement.

The university was currently helping in the rehabilitation of its staff involved in the problem.

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MALAYSIA

GOVERNMENT SHOULD SET UP ROYAL PANEL TO PROBE DRUG ABUSE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 24 Mar 77 p 6 BK

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Wed.--The government was urged today to set up a royal commission to investigate the widespread abuse of drugs in the country.

Haji Mohamed Idris Ibrahim (NF [National Front]--Setapak) said the commission's findings could be used to plan a course of action to check the problem.

"I hope the government will view the drug problem seriously--it can be detrimental to the nation," he said during the debate on the motion of thanks to the Yang Dipertuan Agung for his royal address in opening parliament.

Haji Idris said he regretted that the government had not made serious efforts to eradicate drug abuse.

He felt that there was lack of coordination between the National Association Against Drug Abuse (PEMADAM) and Education Ministry officers in combating this evil among school pupils.

"While the ministry officers maintain that pupils are too young to know about the dangers of drug abuse, PEMADAM is of the view that they should be covered in the campaign," he said.

Haji Idris said more than 11,000 people including 164 women had been treated in hospitals and rehabilitation centres.

Of this number, 65 percent or over 6,000 were between the ages of 15 and 25. He said that of the 11,000 addicts, 5,956 were on heroin, 1,400 on morphine and 1,098 on polydrugs.

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MALAYSIA

AIRPORT CUSTOMS TO USE DOGS TO DETECT DRUGS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Mar 77 p 22 BK

[By Ruhanie Ahmad]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wed.--Customs officers at Subang airport will soon be using dogs to detect drugs, deputy finance minister Mr Richard Ho said today.

"At present, there is no machine or electronic device in the world which can detect drugs. Most countries in Europe and the United States are using trained dogs to carry out this task," he added.

The introduction of the dog unit was to intensify checks against narcotics smugglers in the country, Mr Ho said at a press conference here.

Two senior customs officers will be leaving for Washington to be trained by the United States Customs Service to handle the dogs.

The dogs used for training will later be presented to the Customs Department here.

Mr Ho said the dogs would also be used by post offices here to trace drugs in overseas mail and parcels.

He said the communications minister, Tan Sri V. Manickavasagam, was in favour of the idea.

The deputy minister however outlined three major difficulties in the use of dogs to detect drug smugglers--the dog being a forbidden animal to the Moslems, the costs of maintaining the dogs and the problem of training handlers.

He said the cost of food for a dog was estimated at \$15 per day--over \$5,000 per year.

The Finance Ministry's tax division's secretary, Encik Badruddin Samad, referring to the first problem, expressed hopes that Moslems would be able to understand that dogs were necessary in the fight against drugs.

"We have to use dogs to trace drug smugglers because it has been proven in other countries that they are the most effective means of detecting drugs. I hope Moslems will understand this since we do not wish to see more Malaysian youths, especially Moslems, taking to drugs," he added.

The royal customs and excise deputy director general, Encik Aboul Rahim Bin Datuk Tak, said the dogs worked by their sense of smell. There would be no contacts between the dogs and members of the public except when a dog attacked a suspect.

Encik Rahim, who had seen such dogs at work in the United States, said they could detect drugs on a person or in a vehicle within 2 minutes whereas it took a customs officer to carry out a 20-minute search.

The dogs could also go through about 500 parcels within half an hour, which would normally take customs officers at least 3 days.

Encik Rahim said the dog unit was expected to be in operation at the end of the year.

According to him, the Customs Department had made several successful seizures of drugs within the past 2 years. They seized a total of 1,650 lbs of raw opium, 115 lbs of ganja, 8 lbs of prepared opium, 20 lbs of morphine, 45 lbs of heroin and 55,000 MX pills in 1975.

Encik Rahim said the customs also confiscated a total of 730 lbs of raw opium, 140 lbs of ganja, 14 lbs of prepared opium and 18 lbs of heroin last year.

"We also destroyed 85,000 ganja plants in 1975 and another 7,300 last year.

"The number of people arrested and charged under the dangerous drugs ordinance were 43 in 1975 and 32 last year," he added.

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MALAYSIAN SENTENCED TO DEATH BY SINGAPORE COURT

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Mar 77 p 6 BK

[Text] Singapore, Fri--A Malaysian shop assistant was sentenced yesterday to death by the High Court for drug trafficking--the 10th man ordered to the gallows to date under the amended Misuse of Drugs Act.

The trial judges, Mr Justice Choor Singhz, presiding, and Mr Justice A. V. Rajah, found Koh Chai Cheng, 25, guilty of unlawfully trafficking 1,256 grams of heroin in Park Road last 24 April.

Mr Justice Choor Singh also ordered the forfeiture of Koh's Johore-registered Datsun where the drugs were found after Mr Lim Chye Huat, who was holding a watching brief for Messrs United Keng Soon Credit Sdn. Bhd of Seremban, was unable to give any grounds why the car should not be forfeited.

Another Malaysian, Ooi See Hai, 44, a labourer from Taiping, was acquitted last Wednesday without his defence being called.

The court heard that the two were arrested in an ambush. Three other men were also detained.

Two Malaysian-registered cars were seized. Eleven parcels of drugs were found concealed between the recess of the back seat and the boot of the Datsun.

Koh's defence was that he had no knowledge of the drugs and contended that his two friends, Mr X and Mr Y (both police informers whose names were withheld from publication), had planted the drugs in his car.

He also alleged that Mr X and Mr Y borrowed his car at about 3 pm for nearly 2 hours, during which time he was in Mr S's flat.

He claimed that he was in Singapore to buy a "racing clock."

The DPP [deputy public prosecutor], Mr Sant Singh, submitted that Koh was "nobody's fool," but a "shrewd and intelligent" young man from Batu Pahat.

Koh, he said, chose to remember events only on certain specific dates.

Mr Sant Singh also submitted that Koh's wife, Madam Fu Su Lye, and Li Tong Ewi, a defence witness now under detention, had lied in court.

Mr Thomas Tham, assisted by Mr Denis Tan, appeared for Koh.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

THAI-MALAYSIA COOPERATION--Malaysian authorities have proposed to the Thai Customs Department a joint operation to suppress the smuggling of drugs, firearms and contraband goods along the Thai-Malaysian border, Customs Deputy Director-general Somsak Chanthanasiri said this morning. The Malaysians also said that they would build a 17- to 19-kilometre fence inside their territory at Badang Besar, but they did not announce the date the construction was to begin, he added. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 12 Mar 77 p 1 BK]

DRUG SUPPLY NETWORK--City and Petaling Jaya police have crippled one of biggest drug-supply networks with the arrest of two men believed to be key figures in the organization early today. Eight suspected drug offenders, one of them a woman, have been detained. A substantial amount of what is believed to be heroin was seized in a series of raids over a 6-hour period shortly after midnight in the Sungai (?Way) area. Police believed the network has been supplying drugs to local customers as well as foreign tourists. The city police flying squad first (?convinced of) the network when several children of influential people volunteered to assist them recently. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 13 Mar 77 BK]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

NEW ANTI-NARCOTICS COMMISSION READY TO BEGIN OPERATIONS

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Mar 77 p 3 BK

[Text] The newly-set-up Narcotics Suppression and Prevention Commission [NSPC] received inaugural financial aid from the Cabinet on Monday and is ready to begin work, said its secretary-general, Mr Pramuk Sawatdimongkhon, yesterday.

He said that the committee, chaired by Prime Minister Thanin Kraiwichian, has so far named four committee members out of six to take charge of different coordinating operations with ministries of interior, public health and education and directors general of the police, customs and prosecutions departments.

Appointed were Pol Maj Gen Phao Sarasin, who headed the Subcommittee in Charge of Investigation and Suppression; Phisit Woraurai, heading the Crop Replacement and Hilltribe Development Subcommittee; Dr Bunsom Martin, in charge of prevention and public relations and the subcommittee in charge of medical treatment and psychological rehabilitation chaired by Dr Amon Nonthasut.

The three main tasks of the Narcotics Suppression and Prevention Commission, according to Secretary-General Pramuk, are reducing numbers of potential drug addicts, reducing the production and usage of drugs and reducing the number of drug addicts.

"In order to succeed in the first task of reducing the number of drug addicts [as published], anti-narcotics campaigns will be launched in schools, universities and throughout the community," he said.

Meanwhile, an information division will be set up to oversee the anti-narcotics campaign and supply information needed to people and other governmental units.

Pramuk explained that in order to reduce the production and usage of drugs, two important projects will be carried out, namely suppression and crop replacement programmes for the hilltribes.

"In suppression of dangerous drugs the NSPC cannot do the job without the cooperation of the police, who are directly responsible for narcotics suppression.

"In the early establishment of the NSPC, we still have insufficient manpower. But we plan to set up an investigation, interrogation and suppression division. Meanwhile, our police will closely work with police from the 7th subdivision of the Crime Suppression Centre; marine, railway, and border patrol police, customs, immigration and excise department officials," Mr Pramuk said.

In order to obstruct the production of dangerous drugs and the flow of the drugs to foreign countries, information will be exchanged and close cooperation sought with international police and narcotics police of neighbouring countries and with the United Nations.

Among the most important methods of halting production and the distribution of dangerous drugs, Mr Pramuk said, is an urgent amendment to the present Narcotics Act and an increase in the minimum penalties.

"In my opinion, the minimum penalty for drug pushers, couriers and traffickers is not strong enough. The committee will consider the amendment of the Narcotics Act on the subject of new penalties when the office is completely set up," he said.

He added that Prime Minister Thanin, who is the chairman of the Narcotics Suppression and Prevention Commission, has looked into the narcotics problem and is prepared to use his special powers under Article 21 of the Constitution to impose the death penalty on major drug producers and traffickers.

Mr Pramuk himself recently proposed to the prime minister that Article 21 be imposed against two Chinese Haw heroin traffickers, Lin Taisiang and Mrs Ma Chin-muai, who were caught with 4.1 kgs of heroin brought in from Chiang Rai.

He also expressed his satisfaction over the crop replacement projects for the hilltribes presently conducted in Chiang Mai.

He said that the NSPC will consider setting up a subcommittee to consider the opening of rehabilitation centres for drug addicts, in addition to treatment given them at various hospitals.

"The subcommittee, after being set up, will also consider allowing private clinics to give treatment to drug addicts," he concluded.

THAILAND

POLICE ARREST TWO HEROIN SMUGGLERS

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Mar 77 p 3 BK

[Text] A 24-year-old British girl and a 26-year-old Hong Kong Chinese man were arrested by customs officials last night when they tried to smuggle three kilos of heroin.

The girl identified as Miss Rita Nightingale had two kilos of heroin, better known as brown sugar in the false bottom of her suitcase and the Chinese man identified as Chan Ming Faie had a kilo of heroin hidden in a transistor radio which he carried.

They were about to board an Air France plane to London via Paris when customs officers arrested them.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

117 KILOS OF RAW OPIUM SEIZED IN CHIANG MAI

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Mar 77 p 3 BK

[Text] Chiang Mai--A total of 117 kilos of raw opium was seized in Chom Thong District in three separate raids by a special narcotics suppression police unit on Friday, police reported.

Police first found 18 bags of raw opium (33 kg) in the house of Thawi Sikham at Ban Huai Manao, Ban Luang Sub-district of Chom Thong.

In the second raid, police discovered 21 bags of raw opium weighing 60 kilos in the house of a Thongdi Yanasan at Ban Huai Phak, Ban Phae Sub-district.

Another 14 bags of opium weighing 24 kilos was also found in the house of a Sanan Yanasan.

Police could find no trace of the house owners and are seeking them for questioning.

CSO; 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

DRUG SEIZURES--The Police Narcotics Suppression Center yesterday released a figure of narcotics confiscated last year (January to December 1976) as 642.5 kilograms of heroin, 289.7 kilograms of morphine, 381 kilograms of boiled opium, 1,302 kilograms of raw opium, and 16,127 kilograms of marijuana. This was about five-fold the figure of narcotics seized during the year 1975. [Text] [Bankgok MORNING EXPRESS in English 19 Mar 77 p 1 BK]

CSO: 5300

'DECRIMINALIZING' MARIHUANA AN ISSUE AGAIN

Windsor THE WINDSOR STAR in English 11 Mar 77 p 11

[Editorial by Harold Greer]

[Text] Toronto--"Pot" smokers will know there is a big campaign underway in the United States, now that Jimmy Carter is president, to "de-criminalize" the use of marijuana. Mr. Carter supported that during his campaign and one of his principal aides, now that he is in the White House, is Dr. Peter Bourne, a long-time confidant and drug expert who has been a leader of the de-criminalization movement.

Not surprisingly, some see this as an opportune time to re-activate the idea in Canada, where the federal government has spent the past five years staring at the Ledain Commission's recommendation that possession of marijuana should not be a criminal offence.

Four lawyers have got a "charter" from the U.S. national organization for the reform of marijuana laws to open an office in Vancouver and the chairman of the Law Reform Commission of Canada, Justice Antonio Lamer, told a Toronto audience recently that marijuana possession was a prime example of the many useless, irrational offences that should be taken out of the criminal law.

With all this going on, can the Hon. Roy McMurtry, known as Roy McHeadline to friend and foe, be far behind?

No, indeed. The attorney-general of Ontario was in Belleville the other evening discussing things in general with a group of students when, as it inevitably does, the subject of "pot" came up. The Hon. Roy allowed he didn't think possession should be a crime (at least that is how Canadian Press reported him) because violators didn't regard themselves as criminals and the courts apparently agreed with them, judging from the way the courts were discharging violators almost as quickly as the police caught them.

That was good for Page One in many editions but apparently not good enough for the Hon. Roy, because he went considerably further with the Queen's Park

reporters the next day. He said there should be some kind of federal government control agency to sell marijuana to consumers, in the same way that provincial governments sell liquor.

That got him a late edition headline in THE TORONTO STAR, but it also got him some flack from his ministerial colleagues who, as luck would have it, were in cabinet assembled at the time. So, late in the day, the Hon. Roy returned with yet another pronouncement.

He had, he said, expressed himself badly because he had no opinion as to whether the use of marijuana should or should not be a crime. That was beyond his province and something only the federal government should decide.

Rather, he had merely tried to draw attention to the "dichotomy" which had been allowed to develop, wherein the law said pot smokers were criminals but "public sentiment," as reflected by court dispositions, said they were not. Thus, of 282 charges before the courts of Metropolitan Toronto and Brampton last month involving possession of marijuana, 168 were discharged absolutely or conditionally, 79 received nominal fines, 11 got suspended sentences, and only five resulted in jail terms, "Probably because other charges or multiple offences were involved."

(The Narcotics Control Act, which is part of the criminal law, provides no minimum penalties for possession. A first offence on summary conviction carries a maximum fine of \$1,000, or six months, or both; a subsequent offence carries a maximum of \$2,000 or one year or both.)

The Hon. Roy said he wasn't criticizing the courts for reflecting "public sentiment" but he didn't think the courts should be "cluttered up" in this fashion. Therefore, he thought the federal government should stop being "irresponsible" and should either take possession of pot out of the criminal law or provide meaningful minimum penalties for it which judges would be bound to impose.

And if, repeat if, possession is de-criminalized, then there would have to be some alternative form of effective control, perhaps along the lines of liquor control but most assuredly control by the federal government.

A bravura performance, one must admit. Premier William Davis himself could not have done better. What will provincial politicians ever do, if the country does break up, without a federal government to kick around any more?

Granted that there is an argument for taking possession of marijuana out of the Narcotics Act and the criminal law, and granted the federal government has been stalling on the Ledain report for almost five years, what has the Hon. Roy revealed about his own sense of responsibility as Ontario attorney-general?

He says it is not his province to say if the use of pot should be a crime or not. The fact is that provincial attorneys-general are telling Ottawa all the time what should or should not be in the criminal law. There is, indeed, a formal consultative procedure for doing so.

He says it is not his function to tell judges how to enforce the law. True enough, but attorneys-general frequently make speeches whenever they think the courts are being too lenient about some offence or other. Moreover, attorneys-general do have control over Crown prosecutors and they can order appeals if they think court dispositions are too lenient.

Of course, the power of a judge to dispose of a conviction by discharging the accused either absolutely or conditionally is a discretionary one under the Criminal Code, and not too vulnerable to appeal. But it is no secret in legal circles that judges have got into the habit of discharging pot smokers because Crown attorneys, as a matter of instruction and policy, began recommending such discharges.

Indeed, in a 1972 case, Regina v. Derksen, a British Columbia judge got fed up with the policy and said he wasn't going to go along with it any more as a routine thing. The Hon. Roy didn't say anything about that but then, hell, he probably didn't even know about it.

CSO: 5320

BRIEFS

SENTENCE DELAYED--Victoria (CP)--Ronald Richard Larsen, 30, of Nanaimo, B.C., will be sentenced April 7 after pleading guilty Monday in county court to trafficking in marijuana. Prosecutor Gordon Macdonald said the circumstances of the trafficking, which will be revealed on April 7, involve 660 pounds of marijuana with a street value of more than \$200,000. Macdonald said the marijuana was transported by boat on June 25, 1976, from a place on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, to a point near Sidney, 20 miles north of Victoria. Judge Montague Drake granted a motion by defence lawyer Sidney Simons, of Vancouver, that \$20,000 bail be continued pending sentence, which will be in county court in Nanaimo. A stay of proceedings was entered by the Crown on a charge of importing marijuana. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 15 Mar 77 p 19]

HEROIN CONSPIRACY CHARGE--Niagara Falls (CP)--The RCMP say they have charged two men with conspiracy to export heroin. Carmen Barillaro, 32, of Niagara Falls, and Enzo Fimognari, 27, of Toronto were charged Friday after an eight-month investigation by the RCMP and the Niagara Falls detachments of the regional police and the Ontario Provincial Police. The spokesman said the two are charged with conspiring with two Vancouver men to export heroin to Spokane, Wash. Police said the two pounds of pure heroin involved is valued at \$80,000 but when diluted and sold in capsule form has a potential value of \$6 million. [Text] [Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 22 Mar 77 p 11]

CSO: 5320

YUGOSLAVIA

GOVERNMENT COUNCIL ADVOCATES FIGHT ON NARCOTICS ADDICTION

Maribor VECER in Slovenian 28 Jan 77 p 3

[Text] A conference on combating narcotics addiction will be held in Skopje today and tomorrow. The conference will be attended by more than 100 experts who will discuss the findings of the Skopje Institute for Sociological, Political and Judicial research, where a 2-year study on poppy production, illicit traffic with opium and other narcotics, drug abuse, views of the younger generation on narcotics addiction, and on narcotics addiction in general has recently been completed.

In the Socialist Republic of Macedonia 40 young persons are registered as narcotics addicts and there are several who are prone to becoming addicts. The majority of narcotics addicts in Yugoslavia are in Belgrade and Zagreb. In Belgrade, for instance, there are 1,500 addicts. To a smaller extent cases of narcotics addiction are showing up in Maribor, Pulj, Osijek, Reka, Kranj and Novi Sad.

The Committee of the Yugoslav Assembly's Federal Council for Labor, Health, and Social Policy advocated at its last session a widespread social action to combat the incidence and spreading of narcotics addiction. Members of the committee propose that special health care organizations be set up which would be devoted exclusively to the treatment of narcotics addicts.

12070

CSO: 5300

YUGOSLAVIA

SEIZURE OF 700 KG OF HASHISH IN SLOVENIA LARGEST YET

Maribor VECER in Slovenian 9 Feb 77 p 16

[Text] Ten days ago the Republic Secretariat of Internal Affairs of the Slovenian Socialist Republic assisted by the regional public security administrations in Ljubljana, Koper, Kranj, and Novo Mesto and in cooperation with the Republic Secretariat of Internal Affairs of the Croatian Socialist Republic, discovered part of an international smuggling channel connecting the Near East with Western Europe over Yugoslav territory. Along with the capture of four smugglers the authorities seized 700 kilograms of hashish of the finest quality, representing the largest quantity of narcotics hitherto seized in Yugoslavia.

Apprehended in Slovenia were four couriers, Nikolaos Nanogiannakis [Note by translator: VECER gives the Greek's name as Nanogiannakis while 7D (17 Feb 77 pp 52-53 CSO: 5300/2334) gives the name as Manogianakis], a 26-year-old citizen of Greece; Pieter Jan Brasser, 23, and the married couple Jan Woudster, 23, and Antonella Woudster, 22, Dutch citizens from Rotterdam.

On 22 January 1977 Nikolaos Nanogiannakis, who lives in Amsterdam, arrived in his Ford Taunus on the Slovenian territory from Croatia. He left the car at the Vektor parking lot on Nemska Cesta in Jezica and departed to Holland for further instructions. On 25 January he returned to Ljubljana from Vienna accompanied by the Dutch citizens Brasser and the Woudsters. They transferred the tin boxes containing hashish from the parked Ford to a Citroen GS and took the load to the parking lot of the Turist motel in Grosuplje. Here the hashish was taken over by the Woudsters who attempted to smuggle it in a specially built secret compartment of their Volkswagen bus to Italy.

Immediately afterwards they were apprehended at the international border crossing in Fernetici where a search of their car produced 85 kilograms of hashish. Pieter Jan Brasser was apprehended at the Podkoren international border crossing enroute to Austria but he had no hashish in his possession because he had hidden it near Otocec in Dolenjsko. In a subsequently discovered cache the authorities found 11 kilograms of hashish

and discarded empty tin boxes which served as storage. In the meantime Nikolaos Nanogiannakis checked in at one of the Ljubljana hotels and waited for further instructions. Here he was arrested on 28 January. The search of his Ford produced 34 tin boxes with over 620 kilograms of hashish.

During the investigation the experts established that the hashish was of the finest quality, consisting of 13 gram bars marked Nepal and Golden. The Nepal brand, which is particularly good, was derived from the latest production at the end of 1976. If we value a gram of hashish sold on the black market at 50 dinars the value of the seized contraband is no less than 35 million dinars. If, however, we realize that during the periods when hashish is scarce it commands a price of 300 dinars per gram the above estimate should be increased proportionally.

The present action is undoubtedly one of the largest if not the largest on the Yugoslav territory which is known as a transit region for smuggling. Looking over the past few years, apart from confiscation of some smaller amounts of contraband, one could find only another similar incident, in 1973, when approximately 185 kilograms of hashish was seized.

12070
CSO: 5300

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

ARREST OF COCAINE SMUGGLERS--A Bolivian and five Colombians have been arrested here while trying to smuggle 21 kg of cocaine out of the country. They have been handed over to the courts for trial. [La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Mar 77 PY]

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

JUDGE ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY WITH TRAFFICKERS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Feb 77 p 7-A

[Text] The DAS [Administrative Department of Security] has asked the attorney general's office to investigate the actions of the Zipaquirá circuit judge in a drug trial that concluded a costly and extensive investigation by the DAS.

This judge not only released the accused woman but he ignored the request for transfer to the 12th Circuit Court which had declared her guilty in absentia in another trial.

According to what has been learned, the DAS assigned a patrol composed of 15 units to follow up clues about a possible cocaine laboratory on the Casa Vieja farm in the Cogua area. This was very difficult and cost the DAS some 300,000 pesos but it ended satisfactorily when the laboratory was raided and all the equipment and a large quantity of paste for processing the drug were seized.

Veronica Rivera de Vargas, who was the owner of three shops in a "Sanandresito" in Bogota and lived in a luxurious 5-million peso mansion with a swimming pool and three private cars including a Mercedes, was arrested.

Criminal Judge 35 was assigned the case and he issued an arrest warrant for Veronica Rivera de Vargas. He ordered copies to be taken to her sister and her husband so that they could be searched.

Because of jurisdiction, the case passed to the Zipaquirá circuit judge, the official who 8 days later without any change in the evidence revoked the arrest warrant for the woman.

The judge carried out his own decision, ignoring what the DAS had reported to him in writing in the beginning--that if she was released in the drug trial, she should be placed under the jurisdiction of Criminal Judge 12 of the Bogota circuit since that court wanted her for breach of faith and had issued an arrest warrant.

COLOMBIA

ARMS SMUGGLERS' PLANE SEIZED AT BARRANQUILLA

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Feb 77 p 15-A

[Article by Jose Cervantes: "Small Plane with Arms Cargo Lands"]

[Text] Barranquilla, 25 Feb--A twin-engine plane with North American registration landed today without warning at the end of the runway of the Ernesto Cortissoz International Airport. It carried a cargo of weapons.

The two crewmen fled, leaving the weapons behind.



This is the North American airplane, registration N-7242-R, that landed at the end of the runway at the local airport. Inside were several weapons abandoned by the occupants.

The Atlantic Police took charge of the case and later passed it on to the 2nd Brigade.

The brigade has maintained complete secrecy about the weapons found on the airplane.

This may mean that it is one of the many planes in the "drug fleet" which carried out one of its missions and had to make an emergency landing at the local airport.

The control tower at the Ernesto Cortissoz International Airport notified Customs, the police and the brigade.

7717

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

MARIHUANA PROCESSING RING BROKEN

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Feb 77 p 3-A

[Text] After several months of intensive investigations in the capital, police agents of the F-2 seized a marihuana pressing machine and captured seven international marihuana traffickers.

The operation began on 4 January when Ricardo Hurtado Mutis was arrested at the Eldorado Airport. Two suitcases with false bottoms containing 21 kilos of marihuana destined for Europe were confiscated from him.

It was discovered that the marihuana was well rolled, pressed and packed in special suitcases.

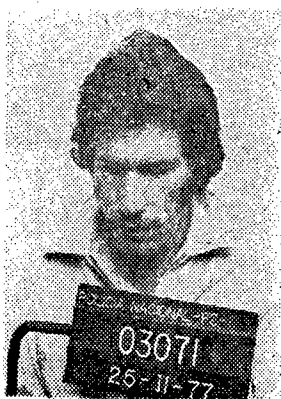
Since then, the F-2 used a special plan to find the machine and the rest of the ring. Yesterday agents of the F-2 intercepted five people at the La Sabana Station. Three were leaving by train for Barranquilla with four suitcases that each contained 8 kilos of pressed marihuana.

They were identified as Sara Magdalena Rabelo Moreno, Orlando Plazas Rincon, Orlando Neira Vargas, Julio Cesar Carrillo Guacaneme and Pablo Enrique Noguera.

The first three also had airplane tickets from Barranquilla to Lisbon (Portugal) and Madrid (Spain) where they have established a base of operations for European marihuana sales.

The agents also went to Sara Magdalena Rabelo Moreno's house at No. 2A-05 Carrera 3. The marihuana rolling and pressing machine was found there.

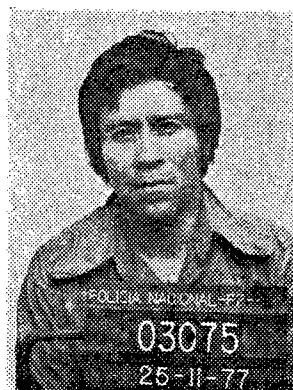
Jose del Carmen Rabelo and Sara Moreno de Rabelo, parents of the woman arrested hours earlier at the La Sabana Station, were arrested at this house.



Eduardo Neira Vargas



Orlando Plazas Rincón



Pablo Enrique Noguera



Sara Magdalena



Julio C. Carrillo Guacaneme

It was also verified that that house was a marihuana distribution center for the national market since a large quantity of paper cut especially for rolling marihuana to be sold individually or in bulk in different sectors of the capital was confiscated.

The authorities also confirmed that the suitcases used for the marihuana traffic were fabricated by Julio Cesar Carrillo Guacaneme and Pablo Enrique Noguera.

This is the first time that such a quantity of marihuana has been confiscated at the railroad terminal.

7717

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

ARREST OF MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS--F-2 agents have arrested five members of an international gang of marihuana traffickers. They are Hernando de Jesus Canas Tobon, Javier de Jesus Zapata Rodriguez, Carlos Alberto Cuellar Romero, Adolfo Herrera Torres and Hernando Henao Bolivar. The police also seized 5 tons of marihuana the traffickers planned to ship to the United States [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Mar 77 p 5c PA]

MARIHUANA HAUL--Bucaramanga, Colombia, 24 Mar--A military commando today seized \$300,000 worth of marihuana in this city's northeastern district and arrested Luis Eduardo Nino Castellanos, who was taking it to Venezuela. Three other traffickers escaped. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0119 GMT 25 Mar 77 PA]

COCAINE LABORATORY RAIDED--The Drug Department of the F-2 raided a home south of Bogota that contained a cocaine processing laboratory. During the operation, according to reports, 19 kilos of cocaine were seized and nine people arrested. The successful operation culminated several months of investigation during which several members of the drug traffickers ring were followed very closely by special agents of the F-2. Those arrested were Francisco Javier Ramirez, Jorge Eliecer Navia, Maria Rosalba Ramirez Molina, Aldemar de Jesus Ramirez, Maria Alicia Gonzalez de Ramirez, Jairo Granados, Idefonso Bermudez, Jorge Leon Munoz and Jorge Eliecer Leon Lombana. The cocaine processing laboratory was discovered in a residence at Carrera 12C and Calle 19 South. Officials said that the confiscated drug would have had a street value of 60 million pesos. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Feb 77 p 3] 7717

MARIHUANA SEIZURE--Cartagena, 28 Feb--Today F-2 patrols in Bolivar dealt a new blow against marihuana traffic by seizing 8 tons of marihuana valued at approximately 8 million pesos. The operation was carried out on the main western highway near Turbaco where the patrollers intercepted two trucks coming from Bogota. They were transporting the marihuana to be "exported" from Cartagena by sea. Five people in the vehicles were arrested but their names were not revealed. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 1 Mar 77 p 5-A] 7717

COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

CAPTURE OF COCAINE TRAFFICKERS--Two Mexicans, Benito Gutierrez Mejia, 35-years old, and Pedro Gomez Colin, 47-years old, may be sentenced to 25 years imprisonment after being captured with 72 packets of cocaine weighing 6 pounds. The Ministry of Public Security reported that they were imprisoned at the San Jose Central Penitentiary and that they were captured at Juan Santamaria International Airport. The cocaine was under the two men's trousers carefully attached with court plaster to their legs. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 15 Feb 77 p 7] 8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

DRUG TRAFFICKING UNDERMINED BY 'OPERATION CONDOR'

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 26 Feb 77 pp 1, 3

[Text] Mexico, 1 Mar--Oscar Flores Sanchez, the attorney general, said Mexican authorities will undermine international drug trafficking with "Operation Condor" by which at least 50 percent of the poppy fields have already been destroyed. This operation will be completed in the beginning of April after 90 percent of the poppy fields will have been destroyed.

Flores Sanchez said that the success of "Operation Condor" is due to the support provided by the air team. This begins with the photos taken by satellites and ends with helicopters and light planes fumigating with powerful herbicides the zones where poppy fields are detected.

He added that this time there is no danger that the great and powerful gangs of drug traffickers can bribe the personnel because from the time the photos are taken by satellites until the marking of coordinates of sites which should be fumigated, the documents are not touched by human hands.

Pilots set out from different bases. They receive their instructions in the air. Besides, different types of aircraft are employed: from small helicopters used only to fumigate to enormous passenger transport planes and fixed wing aircrafts. They reconnoiter the land or photograph what has already been destroyed. The photos provide proof of the work accomplished.

The attorney general announced that by the middle of March the service will have eight new helicopters, half of which will have a capacity of 20 passengers. This will bring to 80 the number of aircraft engaged in "Operation Condor" which began on 1 January.

Flores Sanchez pointed out that the main target of "Operation Condor" is the Sinaloa zone, which due to its climate and humidity, is considered the most suitable for raising poppies. He said, "The greatest destruction of opium poppy fields was made there. From the poppies comes the crude opium which is later made into heroin. This drug is considered one of the gravest scourges of humanity."

When he said that the Mexican authorities will undermine international drug

trafficking, the attorney general pointed out that Mexico is considered the main producer of the heroin consumed by the American market. To attain their objectives, international gangs fostered this production by providing seeds and distributing large sums of money among the peasants.

He said, "If by the end of the campaign we have destroyed 90 percent of the poppy fields, we can expect international drug traffic to suffer irreparable losses since this type of flower grows only during a 4-months cycle each year."

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

INVESTIGATION OF CORRUPT CUSTOMS OFFICERS

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 26 Feb 77 p 8-B

[Text] Manuel Adame Garza, the customs administrator, explained that he could not give more information than that he considers "very valuable" the testimony given yesterday before the Judgement Section on 3 million pesos worth of contraband captured at General Trevino, Nuevo Laredo, by driver Jose Guadalupe Pena. "To do so would obstruct the investigation we will make until no stone remains unturned."

He added that the reports of the customs personnel's actions were delivered yesterday to the Federal Prosecutor's Office to be included in the respective preliminary criminal investigation against driver Pena, a suspected smuggler.

He said that foreign merchandise found in the "Transportistas de Nuevo Laredo" truck was appraised at \$121,179.46 on the basis of the official prices set in the General Import Tax Price List.

Angel Derli Gutierrez and Reynaldo Hernandez Pedraza, commanders of the Customs Guard, said in a report, "In compliance with instructions received from the head of the Supervisory Department, confidential investigations were begun which led to the capture of that contraband at General Trevino, Nuevo Laredo.

Also, the report by Edmundo Garza Garza, corporal of the First Zone Inspection and Vigilance Command detachment at the kilometer 22 post on Miguel Aleman-Monterrey Highway disclosed that the contraband was discovered there at 1430 hours, Wednesday, after suspicion was aroused because the driver carried customs documents issued at Nuevo Laredo.

Garza also included in his report that Jose Guadalupe Pena had said that he had gone to visit a relative in Ciudad Camargo. He parked the truck at the entrance to Mier and went by bus to that city. He later returned to take the truck to Mexico City to deliver the cargo."

He also stated that "Leopoldo Rabate, a guard, escorted the truck to deliver it to the First Zone Inspection and Vigilance Command for proper action." Customs circles predicted that if a thorough investigation is made, the heads

of not less than 10 "fat cats" will roll next week.

Also, Salvador del Toro Rosales, coordinator of the Federal Prosecutor's Offices of Nuevo Leon, Coahuila and Tamaulipas, after arriving yesterday unexpectedly at the port, immediately started judicial investigations based on driver Pena's statements.

Del Toro may hold a press conference today and will probably give the names of those involved in the affair.

Customs Officers Summoned to Mexico

Three commanders and a corporal of the Ciudad Miguel Aleman Customs Guard were summoned to the General Directorate of Customs for interrogation, presumably on the contraband captured by customs officers of Nuevo Laredo at General Trevino, Nuevo Laredo.

Unofficial reports obtained at the Frontier Customs indicate that Commander Diaz Escobar, head of the guard, Bustamante, the deputy commander, commander Lamarque and a corporal whose surname is Oliveros, all of whom are detached to the Miguel Aleman Customs, went yesterday to Mexico City to be interrogated by Leopoldo Ramirez Limon, customs director, on the contraband discovered at Trevino, Nuevo Laredo.

Also, indications are that Commander Lamarque and Corporal Oliveros were on duty at the Presa Falcon post where, according to driver Jose Guadalupe Pena's statements, he took the cargo across the frontier zone.

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

ACCUSATION BY PRISONER AGAINST FORMER HEAD OF GUARDS

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 24 Feb 77 p 4

[Text] Mexico, 23 Feb--During a face to face meeting with Edilberto Gil Cardenas, the former head of the guards of the now closed Lecumberri Jail, Alberto Sicilia Falcon, a Cuban drug trafficker who is a naturalized American, asserted that three times he handed over large sums of money to Cardenas to obtain privileges while he was in Block F of the jail.

Ana Maria Yolanda Ulloa de Rebollo, the Fourth Penal Court judge, and Angel Lima, the attached Public Prosecutor's Office agent, observed Gil Cardenas' amazement when these statements were made. He said that this was false, that he had never met Sicilia Falcon alone in his private office at Lecumberri and that he continuously received people due to the sensitivity of his duties.

In spite of Gil Cardenas' statement, Sicilia Falcon, who is imprisoned at Number 1 Military Prison in this city, maintained, "Old man, remember that the first time I gave you money was so that you would change my cell and you asked me for \$10,000..." When a personal discussion was beginning, the judge intervened and ordered that what each had said be recorded in the proceedings.

Yesterday at 1000 hours, a confrontation was held between Gil Cardenas and Sicilia Falcon, the brothers Luis and Eladio Zuccoli Lopez, the father and uncle respectively of the refugee Luis Zuccoli Bravo; Roberto Hernandez Rubi and Jesus Rafael Olguin.

Eladio Zuccoli Lopez said that he made a deal in Toluca with Rogelio Albarran and that he bought from him the house in the third section of San Antonio Tomatlan, where the tunnel was made through which, on 26 April 1976, the escape was made from Lecumberri by Alberto Sicilia Falcon, Jose Egozzi Bejar, Antonio Hernandez Rubi and Luis Zuccoli Bravo.

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

ARMY SEIZES 45 TONS OF MARIHUANA

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 11 Feb 77 p 4

[Text] Culiacan, Sin.--Army troops seized 45 tons of marihuana in packets and arrested a North American named Joe Walker or Raul Lopez, reported Gen Ricardo Cervantes Garcia Rojas, commander of the Ninth Military Zone, who personally directed the operation.

The general indicated that the shipment was worth 45 million pesos on the international market.

He added that the North American offered him half a million pesos and the same to Maj Gustavo Samano Velazquez, but he was turned over to the Federal Public Ministry along with his dollars.

The American, Joe Walker was arrested and upon being searched was found to have two grams of cocaine and thousands of dollars in his belt, and that was when he tried to bribe the commanders.

Continuing the search for marihuana, 17 caches were located in various spots on the mountain, in which were large numbers of sacks of packages covered with branches.

In one clearing, said the general, apparently used as an airstrip, there were storage tanks, one with 1900 liters of aircraft fuel and another with 1400 liters of the same fuel.

Later, high-powered weapons were discovered, however the owners of the ranch were not found, as they apparently abandoned it when the Army began working in the area, declared Gen Garcia Rojas.

8587
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

POLICE RAIDING "SHOOTING GALLERIES"

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 10 Feb p 3-4

[Article by Antonio Lamas]

[Text] Federal Judicial Police and Investigations agents both scored hits against crime yesterday. While the former raided a house south of Ruiz Cortines avenue, arresting several persons "fingered" as drug traffickers and seizing an unspecified quantity of drugs and marihuana, [Department of] Investigations agents discovered a car in which it is believed two murderers killed the North American Joseph E. Vasach several days ago, his lifeless body being found between Vazquez and Cabeco streets.

There was considerable activity at the offices of the Federal Public Ministry at noon, as several well-known persons had been arrested and were being questioned about the drug seizure.

Continuing the investigation until midnight, it was reported that local police had discovered the place and the names of those who sold the drug to the dead American. An intense search was on for the murderers, but it was not until today that there has been any news of their identity and possible arrest. It was known in advance that at least two homes indicated as "shooting galleries" would be raided today.

Vansach [sic] died of an overdose of heroin last Thursday.

Late Item

Federal Attorney Pedro Mireles Malpica reported at midnight about the prisoners who have been held by Federal Judicial Police since last night. They are: Gustavo Perez Abreu Medina, Guillermo Guerra Amaro, and Elvira Contreras, the three arrested by the Federal Public Ministry, and for investigation, Sergio Tanori Valdez, Tomas Jesus Valenzuela Martinez, Jesus Talamante Islas, and Francisco Jimenez Martinez.

The arrests occurred when agents of the Investigations Department picked up Jesus Talamante Islas, 26, with a stolen radio. When he was taken to the department, he was found to have needle marks in the folds of both arms, and was therefore turned over to Federal Judicial Police.

Later, when he was questioned, he stated that he is a heroin addict and that he bought the drug from a man by the name of Gustavo Perez Abreu Medina at his home at Number 29 Montijo street. When Federal Judicial Police, under the command of Margarito Mendez Rico, commander in Sonora for the Federal Judicial Police, and Hector Arturo Rojas Diaz, group chief in Nogales, went there they arrested Perez Abreu, 65 years of age. He said that the drug was hidden under the toilet. When this was lifted police found four packets containing heroin and cocaine. Abreu Medina said that he and his son Francisco Perez Abreu Meza--his partner, though he was not under arrest--sold drugs, which were sent from Culiacan, Sinaloa, by Antonio Rodriguez and a person known as "Efrain". They later said they had more drugs in a house owned by Perez Abreu Medina in Aquiles Serdan, which was rented by Elvira Contreras Valenzuela. Agents found a sack buried in the yard containing cocaine and heroin, totalling 1.425 kilograms of cocaine and 2.640 of heroin, worth more than a million pesos on the market, of which they sold doses to addicts as well as selling in bulk to two North Americans from Phoenix and Tucson. Tomorrow we will give further information on this.

8587

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

DRUG TRAFFICKERS-KIDNAPPERS ARRESTED

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 25 Feb 77 p 4

[Text] Tijuana, B C N--Today, Federal Judicial Police agents captured five drug traffickers who were holding as hostage an elderly American. Roy McKinley Ferguson was rescued and the criminals have already been imprisoned.

The action took place today at noon in a room of Padre Kino Hotel in this city. The drug traffickers held the elderly McKinley as a means of exerting pressure on his son Bob who owes them \$140,500 for cocaine and heroin he bought from them.

The police reported that the Department of Crimes and Violence of the sheriff's Office of Tulare, California, requested the Mexican federal agents to collaborate in the rescue of the elderly man and the capture of the criminals.

A group of agents led by Commander Carlos Mondragon investigated the disappearance and within just 3 hours arrested the following drug traffickers: Carlos Escarcega Perez, Luis Nunez Aispuro, Maximiliano Diaz Zavala, Juan Lomas Quintero and Jorge Alberto Garcia.

The five criminals were interrogated. They said that Bob Ferguson, the son of the American they held, is a resident of the United States. He owes them \$140,500 for drugs he bought from them. They kidnapped his father to exert pressure on him to settle the account.

Roy McKinley Ferguson, who was convalescing from an operation, was deceived into coming to this city.

When the kidnappers were discovered by the Mexican federal police, they offered no resistance.

Pistols of several calibers, a shotgun, money in cash and two automobiles were seized from them.

The five drug traffickers were placed at the disposal of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office.

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

RELEASE OF PRISONERS BY ARMED ASSAULTERS

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 17 Feb 77 p 4

[Report by Antonio Lamas, DIARIO DE NOGALES reporter]

[Text] At 0310 hours yesterday morning, a violent mass-escape of prisoners took place when more than 10 men, most of whom were armed with submachine guns violently broke into the Magdalena de Kino Municipal Jail. After threatening the guards with their weapons, they took away Jose Luis Sesteaga Mendivil, who on 25 December 1976 shot with a submachine gun the brother of the notorious "Perico" Teran, and eight other prisoners.

Rogelio Rivera Campa, the head of the State Judicial Police in that city, informed DIARIO DE NOGALES that at that hour the aforementioned persons, who are said to look like southerners, entered the jail and broke up everything they came across. After beating the deputy prison warden, Victor Verdugo Soberanes, they broke all the locks of the cell doors, setting free 20 prisoners who were held there.

Rivera Campa said that this evidently was done by people who "worked" with Sesteaga Mendivil in drug trafficking since he was imprisoned and penal proceedings were being made charging him with attempted homicide, bearing prohibited weapons, victimizing Alejandro Teran Sortari, whom he shot 12 times in different parts of his body with a machinegun last December.

Of the 20 escaped prisoners, only 8 went along with the liberators [sic liberados]. They are Benito Flores Diaz, Hector Duarte Verdugo, Roberto Colores Campa, Aldivio Robles Monte, Demetrio Bueno Alvarez, Victor Manuel Lazcano, Rogelio Ruelas Bueno and the most important prisoner Jose Luis Sesteaga Mendivil. The other 12 prisoners returned on their own to the prison.

The judicial police reported that they had stationed themselves outside the jail while hundreds of relatives were interrogated since it was said that the escape was prepared the previous night. Yesterday, the great jail break and the assault on the jail upset the people of Magdalena. The state government ordered increased vigilance.

It was not known whether it was Perico Teran's men or those of Sesteaga Men-

divil himself who intervened in the escape, shooting high-powered arms until they got out the prisoner and his companions in what is described as the "great escape" from the Sonora jail.

8923

CS0: 5330

MEXICO

ARMED GANG FREES TRAFFICKERS IN SONORA

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 Feb 77 p 26-A

/Article by Francisco Santa Cruz Meza: "Gunmen Free Pusher in Magdalena, Sonora"/

/Text/ Hermosillo, Son., 16 February. Ten individuals armed with submachineguns and high-powered rifles used their weapons to free Jose Luis Esqueda Mendivil, a drug trafficker who was in custody at the social readaptation center of Magdalena de Quino.

During the gunfight seven other dangerous criminals managed to escape. The assistant warden and a jailer were injured by gunfire. These events took place at 0300 hours today.

The attackers, who apparently belong to a gang of traffickers, came with the purpose of freeing Esqueda Mendivil, who also uses the name Jose Sestiaga. He was arrested in Hermosillo by agents of the Judicial Police for participating in a gunfight between two gangs of traffickers. After his arrest he was transferred to the Magdalena de Quino city jail.

After the gunmen entered the prison and subdued the guards, they cut the wires for the telephone and interior electricity, blasted open the cell doors and freed Esqueda Mendivil and the other seven criminals, namely: Rogelio Ruelas Bojorquez, Victor Manuel Leyva Paco and Abdulio Robles Mendez, all three imprisoned for having committed armed robbery; Roberto Colores Campa, arrested for robbery, fraud and falsification of documents; Hector Duarte Diaz, on trial for attempted murder and damages; Demetrio Bueno Alvarez and Esqueda Mendivil, recently jailed for attempted murder and bearing arms illegally.

At present the authorities have no clue where the escapees went.

Magdalena de Quino police sources announced that Victor Verdugo, assistant warden, and Ernesto Valle Soto, a guard, were taken to the Civil Hospital of Magdalena.

MEXICO

DRUG TRAFFICKER ON THE THRESHOLD OF FREEDOM

Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 1 Mar 77 p 3-B

[Text] Jose Salinas Garcia was nearly set free. Alejo Sierra Gomez, Third District Court judge, granted suspected drug trafficker Jose Salinas Garcia an injunction against the order of imprisonment issued against him for acquiring, transporting, storing, traffic and illegally exporting marihuana.

Sierra Gomez considered that the evidence was sufficient to confirm the order of imprisonment for possessing marihuana so he did not grant on this count an injunction.

Third District Court personnel reported on the injunction issued by the court's judge.

Reports state that Salinas Garcia was captured by PJF [Federal Judicial Police] at the port of Matamoros when he attempted to "export" three bags of marihuana across the Rio Bravo to the United States in a rubber boat.

At the time the PJF arrested Salinas Garcia, he confessed to a long series of operations with marihuana. The Public Prosecutor's Office collected impressive evidence on the basis of which the Second District Court judge ordered his imprisonment for acquisition, transportation, possession, storing, trafficking and illegal exportation of marihuana.

In April 1976, Salinas Garcia was captured in Matamoros and Proceedings No 129-976 were opened in the Second District Court.

EL MANANA was informed that in spite of the numberless pieces of evidence provided by the federal prosecutor, the injunction granted by the Third District Court judge places the suspect on the threshold of freedom.

8923

CS0: 5330

MEXICO

SINALOA POPPY GROWERS PAID OFF WITH WEAPONS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 Feb 77 p 27-A

/Article by Rafael Medina Cruz: "Sinaloa Poppy Growers Paid with High-Powered Weapons"/

/Text/ Culiacan, Sin., 16 February. The poverty which consumes more than 90 percent of the small towns in the Sinaloa foothills is the reason for an alarming growth of crimes against health in the region. For several generations, residents have subsisted exclusively through planting and harvesting poppies, with traffickers paying only with high-powered weapons and promises of a better economic situation.

These towns are armed to the teeth, and agents stay out unless they have protection from the army. Children between 9 and 16 years are already busy planting and harvesting poppies for production of narcotics. During the sowing period, the first four and the last four months of the year, there is violence whenever the authorities visit the towns.

Hundreds of small farmers, needy in almost every respect, hungry, sick, troubled and forgotten, serve the most nefarious interests of powerful gangs of drug pushers in exchange for small sums of money.

Mexican Attorney General's Office agents discover from 450 to 500 poppy plots daily in hidden spots strategically located in the inaccessible Sierra Madre Occidental.

Some 8,000 Plots Destroyed

Since the beginning of the year, according to data from Samuel Alba Leyva, general coordinator of the campaign against drug trafficking and assistant Attorney General, more than 8,000 plots of poppies planted early in the year have been destroyed, preventing the harvest which would have been made next week.

Armed units of the army and attorney general's agents are viewed with suspicion by women, children and old people of the towns. When authorities arrive, the adult males hide inside their homes or flee into the mountains to avoid arrest.

Gen Jose Hernandez Toledo, chief of military operations in the Sinaloa mountains, in coordination with Federal Judicial Police Commander Manuel Arreguin Perez, confiscated 1200 high-powered weapons in the past 2 weeks from farmers working for traffickers. Most of the guns are from the United States, and include rifles (30 cal. M 1, 30 cal. M 2, R 15) submachineguns, shotguns and pistols of every caliber; these are now in the hands of the army.

The towns of Badiraguato, Guamuchil, Santiago de los Caballeros, San Jose del Llano, Mazatlan and others are veritable fortresses for traffickers where orders had been given to fire at anyone coming close to the planting areas.

According to Gen Jose Hernandez Toledo, after various armed conflicts with farmers, the army managed to gain entry to these towns and destroy large poppy fields by using helicopters from the Attorney General's office.

More Than 75 Percent Charged With Crimes Against Health

The Culiacan jail's population is presently 1,196, with over 75 percent in custody for crimes against health.

Alba Leyva noted that scores of small farmers are ignorant of the crimes they can be charged with and of the harm they are causing to society by growing the raw material for narcotics.

As an example he pointed to Badiraguato, a town with 1,500 residents, approximately, which is considered one of the prime producers of enormous quantities of heroin and which has placed Sinaloa state at the top of Mexico's producing areas.

In the last 47 days 197 persons have been arrested and charged as presumably responsible for crimes against health, including wealthy Culiacan businesspersons who were financing the production of narcotics.

In Badiraguato yesterday army and attorney general's units burned 80 tons of marihuana confiscated in the past week at posts the army staffs at strategic points.

General Hernandez Toledo stated that trade of weapons for drugs is definitely going on in Sinaloa, and added that it is "next to impossible" to know how they are brought in, since Sinaloa has more than 1,000 hidden airstrips used by powerful gangs of pushers.

Hernandez Toledo and Federal Judicial Police Commander Manuel Arreguin promised to wipe out more than 15,000 poppy fields by the end of April in the mountain areas of Sinaloa.

They said that toward this end a "war to the death" has been declared on drug trafficking eating away at the whole state; 2,300 soldiers and 200 agents from the Attorney General's Office, as well as 13 helicopters and 7 small planes are engaged in the battle.

11,989
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

ARREST OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 15 Feb 77 p 2

[Text] PJF [Federal Judicial Police] seized more than 250 million pesos worth of drugs at the Tijuana, Baja California, International Airport from a 6-seater Cessna plane. Three suspected drug traffickers were arrested when they attempted to take off in the plane for the United States.

A little over a month ago, Commander Americo Espinosa del Angel and the head of the group, Juan Ramon Estudillo Cerezo began the investigation with the help of PJF serving under them. This culminated with the seizure of 136 kilos of cocaine and 5 kilos of heroin which were in plastic bags.

The police watched the arrivals and departures of private planes. When they learned that the 6-passenger Cessna 310 plane, registration No XB-EAD was in the airport ready to take off, they inspected it and found the drugs.

During the inspection, the pilot Marcio Enrique Alvarez Velazquez, Jesus Alfredo Aguilar Medina and Oscar Cazares Rocha were captured. They said they came from Culiacan, Sinaloa, and were going to the United States.

Yesterday noon, when this became known, the Attorney General's Office reported that precise instructions had been issued to make a thorough investigation of the source of the drugs so as to capture all the members of the gang which must be very important in view of the size of the seizure. That office considers this one of the severest single blows against drug trafficking of the last few months since the black market value of the drugs is about 300 million pesos.

8923

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

ARREST OF HASHISH TRAFFICKERS

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 15 Feb 77 p 4



[Text] Federal Judicial Police captured Luis Enrique Adame, Francisco Pulido and Edmundo Mendez, hotel employees in Hermosillo, in relation to the confiscation of a large cargo of hashish appraised at 20 million pesos. The main leader is Gumersindo Lopez Barron.

8923

CS0: 5330

MEXICO

ARREST OF HEROIN TRAFFICKERS

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 26 Feb 77 p 4

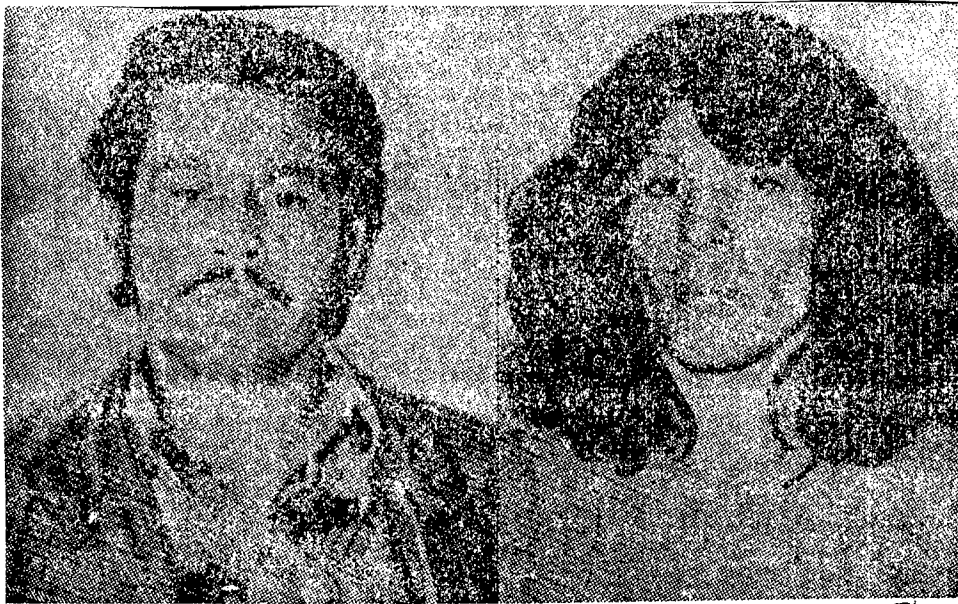
[Text] The PJF [Federal Judicial Police] captured a taxi driver of this frontier, who retailed drugs, as the result of the arrest of two women who were transporting on a passenger train to Nogales 300 grams of pure heroin.

When the PJF searched Hermelinda Carrillo Ochoa, they found the heroin hidden between the lining and the cloth of her jacket. She was traveling with Maria Jesus Lara Garcia who was also arrested.

When Mrs Carrillo Ochoa was interrogated, she said that Fernando Salinas Alvarez, a taxi driver of this frontier, had given her 150,000 pesos to buy heroin in Culiacan and bring it to this city.

With this information, the PJF agents led by Commander Margarito Mendez Rico, went to Nogales where they arrested Salinas Alvarez who confessed that he retails heroin to addicts who request it.

Salinas Alvarez also admitted that in the past he was a partner of Miguel Serrano, the former husband of Hermelinda, who was assassinated by a gang in Sinaloa. He said he sold the heroin at \$1,000 an ounce.



The taxi driver Fernando Salinas Alvarez of Nogales and Hermelinda Carrillo Ochoa, also of Nogales, were arrested with a considerable amount of heroin in their possession, which they were bringing to sell at this frontier. The Federal Judicial Police triumphed again by arresting them. The woman had been the mistress of Manuel "Lito" Serrano who was assassinated.

8923

CSO: 5330

ARREST OF DRUG TRAFFICKER

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 24 Feb 77 p 4

[Article by Antonio Lamas]

[Text] Yesterday, at 168 Calle Vazquez, the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] arrested Hector Arturo Rojas Diaz with 135 packages of marihuana, 175 grams of marihuana seeds, a considerable amount of cocaine and heroin and a 32-caliber pistol.

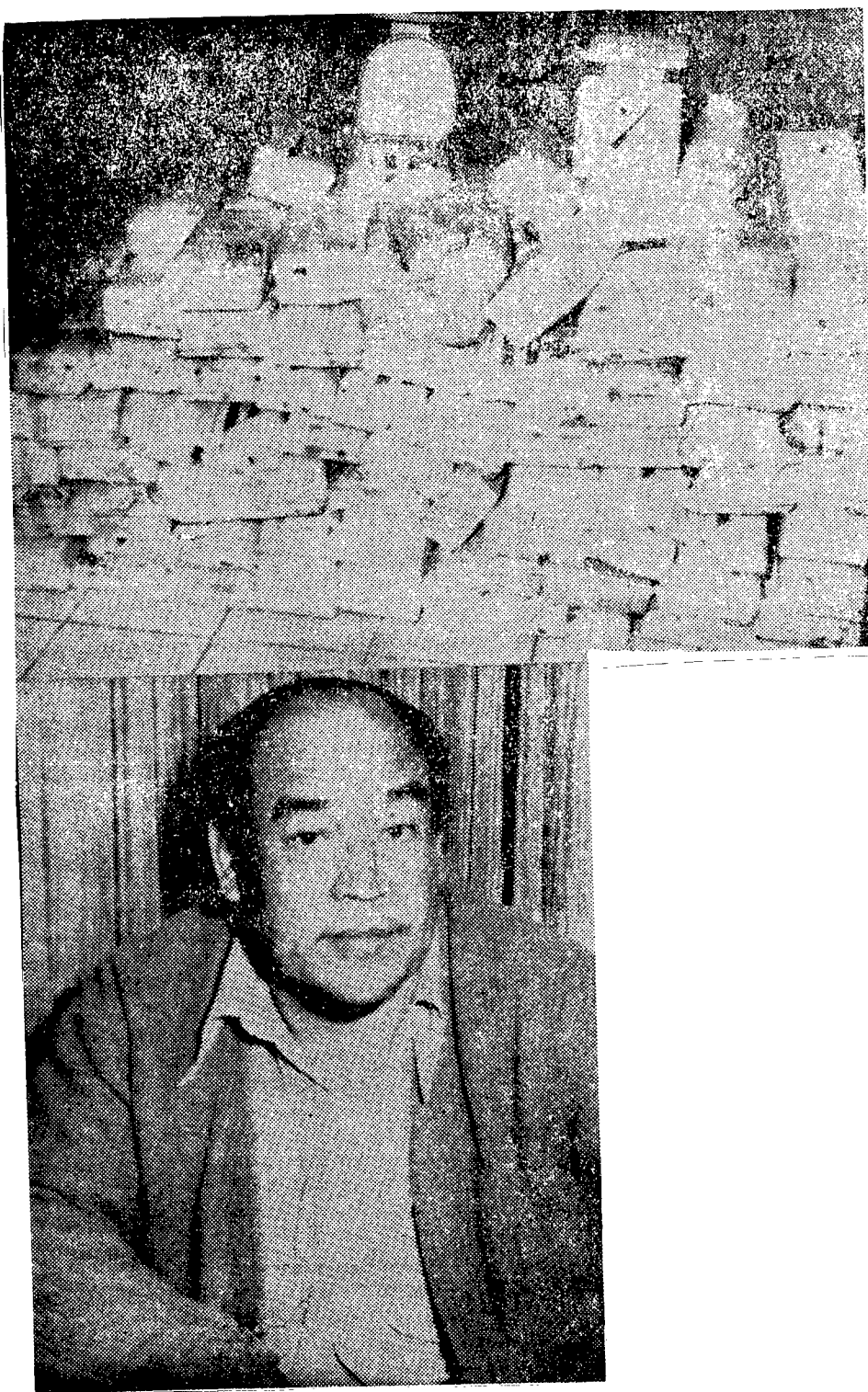
Pablo Ernesto Avila Triana, the Public Prosecutor's Office agent in Nogales, reported this to DIARIO DE NOGALES. He added that the PJF had known for some time that at that house on Calle Vazquez, a person with the nickname "El Chino" sold marihuana and other drugs.

Thus, the PJF made an exhaustive investigation. Yesterday, they took "El Chino" by surprise. During their search of the house, they found 175 grams of marihuana seeds, 5 grams of marihuana, 1 gram of cocaine and unspecified amounts of heroin, 2 scales for weighing marihuana, a pistol and many rounds of special 38 caliber expanding bullets.

Soon afterwards, the same PJF agents took the prisoner to Calle Providencia where they found four jute sacks and two cardboard boxes holding 135 packages of marihuana which "El Chino" had stored there.

"El Chino" Will Also Be Investigated for Forgery

At the house on Calle Providencia, the PJF also found 11 American Social Security Cards which were said to be forged. Today, the evidence will be turned over to the Public Prosecutor's Office agent.



Above is the large quantity of marihuana, heroin, cocaine and scales for weighing drugs which the Federal Judicial Police confiscated yesterday from Hector de la Cruz Fontes, alias "El Chino" at his home on Calle Vazquez. "El Chino" is in the photo below. He committed a much talked about assassination several years ago at this frontier. After an arduous investigation, yesterday the police broke into and searched his den where they confiscated the load of drugs.

BRIEFS

CONFISCATION OF DRUG TRAFFICKER'S PLANES--A total of 73 planes, most with foreign registration, were captured by the PJF [Federal Judicial Police]. Among these are twin-motor planes, light planes and two bombers used by international drug traffickers to transport marihuana to the United States. Public Prosecutor's Office personnel discovered more than 500 clandestine landing strips. At some of these, pilots and assistants were captured when they were loading drugs or were about to do so. Carlos Aguilar Garza, the Attorney General's Office coordinator of the struggle against drugs, states in a report that only 15 of 73 planes captured by the PJF are in working conditions. The remainder were damaged when they fell to the ground due to an overload of marihuana or they were unable to take off and got stuck on beaches or in swamps. The Public Prosecutor's Office has not attempted to repair the planes: first, because in most of the cases their legal status has not been decided; second, because too great an investment would be required. The official added that in at least three of the accidents with these planes, six persons were killed by fires or explosions. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 17 Feb 77 p 4] 8923

DISCOVERY OF A HEROIN LABORATORY--Mexico, 25 Feb--PJF [Federal Judicial Police] agents found more than 40 million pesos worth of heroin and laboratory equipment for making the drug in a clandestine laboratory at 6 Calle de Nicaragua, Rosales Section, Culiacan, Sinaloa. Ramon Garcia Barraza and Gilberto Gispar Galindo were arrested with 1.16 kilos of pure heroin, 17 bags containing 30 kilos of powder for cutting the drug, trays, sieves, spoons, acids, liquids and other utensils and substances in their possession. The suspected drug traffickers, the drugs and the utensils were placed at the disposal of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office in that city which will turn them over to the District Court judge of that frontier capital. Also, on the 4 Caminos highway to Uruapan, Michoacan, a tank truck containing 1,000 packages of marihuana weighing 830 kilos was found. PJF agents are making investigations to determine who is the owner of the vehicle. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 26 Feb 77 p 1-A] 8923

NEW LA PAZ CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATOR--Last night, reliable reports stated that Rodolfo Garza Cantu, the former head of Finance and Public Credit in this city, was appointed administrator of the La Paz, Baja California, Customs. Thus, Garza Cantu is preparing to turn over his present post to the subordinate of the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit in Ciudad Madero, Tamaulipas. At the same time, it was said that a group of people from Nuevo Laredo will go to La Paz, Baja California, to visit him, taking a pleasure trip across Cortez' sea [Mar de Cortez] to enjoy the beaches recognized as having the whitest sand and the bluest waters along Mexican coasts. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 27 Feb 77 p 7-B] 8923

MARIHUANA TRAFFICKER'S SENTENCE--Yesterday, Alejo Sierra Gomez, Third District Court judge, sentenced Arturo Cepeda Cabrera, 35-years old, to 8 years 6 months imprisonment and fined him 20,000 pesos for the crime against public health of transporting marihuana. On 24 July 1975, the Federal Judicial Police arrested Aurelio Perez Jimenez with some bricks of marihuana in his possession. He confessed that "El Cole" had sent him 200 kilos of marihuana in a light truck belonging to him. He stored the marihuana at the home of Julio Garcia. The latter was arrested and the marihuana was seized. The two convicts said at the time that they made a deal with "El Cole" to receive the marihuana and to take it over to the American side. They were paid \$1,000 for each operation. These men were sentenced last year. Since he was not arrested until 26 September 1976, only Arturo Cepeda Cabrera had not been sentenced. Since he was a repeater, the judge decreed this exemplary sentence for Arturo Cepeda Cabrera, "El Cole". [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 1 Mar 77 p 7-A] 8923

TRANSFER OF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AGENT--Yesterday, reliable sources informed EL DIARIO that Gonzalo Ochoa Franco, the Public Prosecutor's Office agent, will be removed during the first half of this month as part of the restructuring being carried out by the Attorney General's Office. However, this report has not been officially confirmed but the possibilities of Gonzalo Ochoa Franco leaving the post of Public Prosecutor's Office agent were definite. Perhaps Ricardo Tapia Salas will be appointed Public Prosecutor's Office agent and the next official will take the post he would leave as deputy federal prosecuting attorney. [Text] [Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 2 Mar 77 p 2-A] 8923

ARREST OF TRAFFICKERS AND SEIZURE OF MARIHUANA--Mexico, 2 Mar (EMSA)--The PJF [Federal Judicial Police] seized 7 tons of marihuana in the town "Las 20 Onzas" in Culiacan, Sinaloa and 1 ton in Mexicali, Baja California. Nine suspected drug traffickers were arrested and an M-1 rifle and a 38-caliber pistol were seized. The gang of drug traffickers was disclosed by a man who was arrested while offering several tons of marihuana for sale in Culiacan, Sinaloa. The members of the gang were captured when they were filling 512 sacks with 7 tons of marihuana in the town of "Las 20 Onzas", 10 kilometers from Culiacan. Federal agents in Mexicali, Baja California, reported that

they found a ton of marihuana in packages which had been abandoned at a spot near the highway. The PJF continued investigating and near the spot in a house at No 581 Avenida de Pedro Kino, Pro-Hogar Section, they found a hydraulic press with a motor, a scale, a 1975 light truck without license plates and traces of marihuana. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO in Spanish 3 Mar 77 p 4-B] 8923

CAPTURE OF DRUG TRAFFICKER--Yesterday morning, the PJF [Federal Judicial Police] of this city, under Commander Hector Arturo Rojas Diaz, broke into a house at No 450 Calle Reforma. During their investigations, they found out that in this house belonging to David Osuna Acosta all types of drugs were sold. The PJF agents arrested him with a considerable amount of heroin and marihuana in his possession. Commander Rojas Diaz told DIARIO DE NOGALES that for some time he knew that at that house numberless young people of both sexes went to obtain heroin and marihuana which Osuna Acosta sold to them. The Commander said that for some time the house had been under surveillance. Finally, yesterday, with a search warrant, they surprised them. Inside, the PJF arrested Osuna Acosta who had in a wardrobe 45 grams of heroin and 510 grams of marihuana. When the PJF arrived for the search, a large crowd of persons and plaintiffs surrounded the house. Osuna's 1970 Ford with Arizona license plates No TMS-564 was also confiscated. It was said that at any moment other drug traffickers who "worked" with the prisoner would be arrested. The confiscated vehicle, the drugs and Osuna Acosta were placed at the disposal of Pedro Mireles Malpica, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office agent. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 16 Feb 77 p 4] 8923

DENUNCIATION OF CORRUPT OFFICIALS--Cd Acuna, Coah--According to allegations, Macario Ramirez Guarneros, police commander, and Hector Burciaga, who replaced Miguel Orihuela Torres as chief of investigations at the police commander's order, have formed a partnership to make "a pretty penny." This comment was made by several persons who were detained in the municipal jail for hypothetical offenses and were set free a few hours later after paying an amount of money required of them by Hector Burciaga. We know that a few days ago, Carlos Castro Rivas, who was captured with a small package of marihuana, was put behind bars for investigation. After talking with Commander Guarneros and Hector Burciaga and paying a quota of 2,500 pesos, he was set free after 24 hours imprisonment. [Excerpts] [Piedras Negras LA VOZ DEL NORTE in Spanish 28 Feb 77 p 3] 8923

DRUG DEALER ARRESTED--Federal Judicial Police yesterday arrested a taxi driver at his home at 818 Colombia street and seized 43 "papers" (doses) of heroin. Antonio Quijada Mazon, 40, sold the drug to addicts on 5 de Febrero street, and he confessed that he bought it from a well-know drug dealer in Nogales. Police would not release the dealer's name as they expect to arrest him at any time. [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 19 Feb 77] 8587

ANOTHER "SHOOTING GALLERY" RAIDED--Federal Judicial Police in this city, headed by Comd Hector Arturo Rojas Diaz, struck another blow against drug traffic yesterday when they raided a "shooting gallery" at number 302 Calzada de la Virgen and arrested the operator, a taxi driver who is also a drug addict. Police took 23 grams of heroin and 3 large bottles of morphine base from him. The trafficker, named Marco Antonio Montijo Fuentes, who worked as a taxi driver at the "Corona" stand, was arrested when the drugs were seized, as there were already several charges that he injected youths of both sexes [with drugs] at his home. He confessed that he had been selling and injecting the drug for over a year. The above information was reported by Pedro Mireles Malpica, agent of the Federal Public Ministry of Nogales, who also said that efforts would continue against drug traffic and more "shooting galleries" in the city would be raided. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 22 Feb 77 p 4] 8587

CONFISCATION OF PLANES--Chihuahua, Chih. 16 Feb--Three private planes presumably used for transporting drugs to the United States were confiscated today by agents of the Federal Judicial Police. None of the pilots were found. Commander Antonio Quezada Forlelli related that the planes were found on air strips in the southern part of the state and that two other planes were confiscated recently in the cities of Jimenez and Parral. Residues of marihuana were found in the planes. Quezada Forlelli announced also the capture of Dolores Luna, widow of Vazquez, who had been active in planting and harvesting opium poppies in the area for the production of drugs. He indicated that she had been involved because certain persons from the United States paid her very well and because "This is the only way to overcome the economic crisis and support a family." /Text/ /Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 Feb 77 P 26-A/ 11,989

CSO: 5300

PANAMA

COCAINE SEIZED, FEMALE TRAFFICKER ARRESTED

Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 15 Feb 77 p 1 PA

[Excerpt] Narcotics officials of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury seized two packages containing 780 grams of cocaine valued at 250,000 balboas from Belgica A. Mosquera Varos, an Ecuadorean, upon arrival at Tocumen airport from Guayaquil, Ecuador.



PANAMA

MEXICAN COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 77 PA

[Excerpt] On 26 February the authorities captured Mexican citizens Humberto Hugues Carboni, Marcos Antonio Yeomans Vingochea and Jesus Mario Villa Castillo, who were found in possession of 5 packets containing cocaine. The drug had been bought in Bolivia and was to have been sold in Mexico.



CSO: 5300

IRAN

UNDERCOVER AGENT ARRESTS TEHERAN DRUG TRAFFICKER

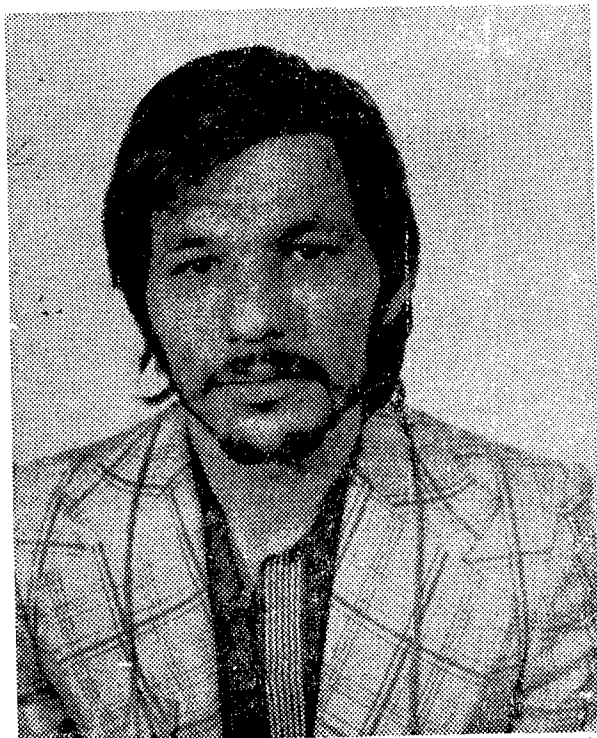
Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Nov 76 p 30

[Text] Local narcotics officials were informed that a man by the name of Vali Jamali Farzand Habib, also known as "Vali Rizeh," was engaged in selling and distributing heroin in south Teheran.

After receipt of this news, authorities investigated the matter, and using the cover of a buyer, bought 110 gr of heroin from him. After completing the transaction, "Vali" was apprised of the situation and made an attempt to escape, but was apprehended and arrested after a brief chase.

An arrested smuggler, who had been charged with possession of heroin, gave the name of a man, Qorban Kechel, as a pusher, saying that Qorban brought heroin from Hamadan to Teheran where he himself sold it.

Efforts to arrest Qorban Kechel were begun, and during the investigation three other smugglers, Mehdi Mirja'fari, Taqi Rasti, and Taqi Khatemzadeh, who were carrying 38 packets of heroin, were apprehended.



ولی ریزه (۱۱۰ گرم هروئین به ماموران فروخت)

IRAN

HAMADAN AREA DRUG ARRESTS, DRUGS CONFISCATED

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 Oct 76 p 4

[Excerpt] The local narcotics administration announced that about 5 kilos of heroin have fallen into their hands from three smugglers. These persons were building up a heroin ring, with the cooperation of a number of rural families.

It was made known to authorities that a number of families from the village of Fanin (one-third of the way from Hamadan to Saveh) were engaged in supplying Teheran heroin addicts.

After officials became aware of the group's operation, they were successful in confiscating more than 5 kg of heroin from Hoseyn Fazlian, Hoseyn Ahangari, and Habibollah Alvan, all three of whom were residents of Hamadan. [The heroin was found] at the end of Khaki Shurin Ave in Hamadan and at various points in the village of Fanin. According to authorities, the identities of the accomplices have become known to them and arrests will be forthcoming.



CSO: 5300

IRAN

REZA'IEH HEROIN ARRESTS, DRUGS SEIZED

Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 6 Oct 76 p 30

[Text] Ahmad Najafi, a resident of the village of Shurkand (near Reza'iyeh), a smuggler who was providing more than one-third of the heroin consumed by Reza'iyeh addicts, was arrested, at which time 105 gr of heroin were discovered.

Local narcotics officials, in order to set a trap for this dangerous smuggler, approached him in plainclothes to carry out a transaction with him, whereby the 105 gr of heroin were handed over and the trap was sprung.

Authorities also booked a 32-year-old woman by the name of Khadijeh Towntunkar for possession of 8 gr of heroin. Khadijeh began distributing heroin to Reza'iyeh addicts after her husband was jailed for buying and selling heroin.



CSO: 5300

IRAN

BRIEFS

RASHT HEROIN NETWORK--The identities of two members of an active group of heroin manufacturers and distributors in Rasht who were recruiting youths, addicting them to heroin, and afterwards selling it to them, were made known to local narcotics officials. The two persons were Hoseynpur Sahra Nowrad and Mohammad Rowshanbin. Hoseynpur Sahrad Nowrad was arrested in the Pol-e Barraaq neighborhood, but Rowshanbin escaped arrest. A 17-year old youth, Jamshid Rambarzun, who had been exploited by this group, was taken into custody. [Text] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 1 Nov 76 p 4]

NAHAVAND HEROIN ARRESTS--Local narcotics authorities in Nahavand during the last few days were able to arrest several persons, drug addicts and pushers, most of whom have records. Those arrested were: Monir Nikseresht, with 9.9 gr of heroin; Norkhoda Nazari, with 1.05 gr of heroin; 'Ali Yunesi, with 1.5 gr of heroin; Amrollah Seyf, alias Amrollah Ghowreh, with 4 gr of heroin; and Bani Seyf, with 1.01 gr of heroin. [Excerpt] [Teheran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Jan 77 p 18]

TABRIZ HEROIN ARRESTS--Local Tabriz narcotics officials arrested an individual by the name of Naser Chapari, suspected of distributing heroin. In searching his house on Sham-e Tabrizi Ave, 18.15 gr of heroin were found. Officials also arrested three heroin pushers by the names of Seyfoddin Purayaz, Hoseyn Esma'ilzadeh, and Mirza Aqa Eqbali, possessing 47 packets of heroin. [Text] [Teheran RASTAKHIZ in Persian 13 Jan 77 p 16]

CSO: 5300

ISRAEL

WAR AGAINST INCREASING DRUG USE ESCALATES

Tel Aviv DAVAR weekend supplement in Hebrew 11 Mar 77 pp 18-19

[Article by Oren Mohr and Moshe Lichtman: "The War Against the White Death"]

[Text] Shortly after dusk two plainclothesmen position themselves at a look-out point at a hidden spot and observe from a safe distance the activity at the drug sale station at number 6 IZ"l Street in the center of Hatikvah Quarter. Hours of waiting grate on the nerves. Endless reports on the communications instrument to the commander of the operation. Additional groups of detectives. Tense eavesdropping in the alleys of the quarter.

The operation gets under way. At the first stage they arrest at least two customers who have bought "stuff" at the station, after detainment far from the place of purchase in order not to "burn" the operation. If the buyers have been caught with the drugs in their possession, the final operation is started.

Quickly, from different directions, police vehicles appear with a squeal of tires. Plainclothesmen from the Drug Division jump out and handcuff the drug sellers. During these arrests they don't hesitate to use rough methods; if the sellers succeed in swallowing the drug or of disposing of it in any manner, the operation has failed.

By what means does the Israel Police Department carry on its war against drug smugglers and heroin merchants? What are the problems which hinder the law in this war? Who are the drug merchants? How do they distribute the "white death," the heroin and the other dangerous drugs?

Over the past year the most dangerous drug, heroin, has been making its way into the Israeli drug market in large quantities, and a severe shortage is being felt in the drug that until now had been most popular, opium. Use of many kinds of addictive pep pills and tranquilizers continues. The addicts obtain them on the black market, through theft, or by the use of prescriptions which they get from shady doctors. Aside from the chronic addicts, tens of thousands of people use "light" drugs such as hashish and marijuana on occasion.

Police Superintendent Zvi Ar'al, national staff drug officer, explains this situation: "We have succeeded in more or less closing the land and sea borders of the country. In this respect we're "hitchhiking" on the IDF and the refined methods of security and deterrence set up at the borders. But despite the cooperation with the military, drugs make their way into the country through the borders, although in small quantities."

A threatening development has taken place in the world drug market in recent years. Under pressure from the United States, the Turks and the Iranians have curtailed their vast opium harvests. In addition, there is greater care in the inspection of baggage, because of air terrorism, and it is more difficult to smuggle opium and hashish, the relative bulk of which tends to inhibit the smugglers.

Drug merchants have therefore turned to heroin. Profits of smugglers of this drug are vast, they find it easier to smuggle because of the lesser bulk and the risk is very small. An additional consideration: Dependence of the addict on this drug is total and guarantees a thriving business.

The prime source of the heroin distributed in Israel is Thailand. From there the drug arrives in Europe in roundabout ways, and from there, by air, to Israel. The police classify it as Hong Kong Heroin Number 3. It is crystalline in form and a yellowish-brown in color. There are other types of heroin white and reddish, but the yellow heroin is the most widely distributed. A gram of pure heroin costs about 1,600 Israeli pounds.

"From the addict's standpoint," says Superintendent Ar'al "this country has superior material. It contains about 40 percent pure heroin, as against 6 percent in the drug being sold on the streets in New York." Of late, the quality of heroin has dropped in Israel, too, and as it passes through more hands more grape sugar is added to it, the only material which does not leave a "suspicious" deposit when mixed with the drug.

The Addicts

"To get through the day," an addict in the detoxification center in Jaffa relates, "I need a total of 250 Israeli pounds, and if you're deep into drugs even that is not enough."

In recent weeks six cases have become known of death of addicts "resulting from an overdose of drugs." Long-time addicts are not impressed by these reports. One of them says: "That's all nonsense. I've been into drugs for 30 years and I know what's happening in the market. It's those merchants seeking profits who add poison or lime-powder to the dose. No one dies from heroin. It's all because of the contaminations."

Superintendent Ar'al says: "The tolerance of an addict is astounding. His body is capable of absorbing a dose which can kill a normal person instantly. I don't accept the overdose version, and there is no confirmation for it from the pathological institute, but the addicts are aware of the danger in heroin."

The dosage in this substance is very delicate and for the neophyte addict an overdose is liable to be fatal. What we are discussing are quantities that must be measured in a pharmacy on electronic scales."

Deputy Commander of the drug division in the Tel Aviv Police Department, Inspector Amnon Shamash, says: "Cause of death is officially defined as use of heroin but the real causes are liver poisoning and contaminations in the daily injections. There have been many more cases of death, but the families refused autopsies."

The number of addicts in Israel is not known exactly, but is estimated at more than 3,000. Almost half of these are living in the Tel Aviv district. "The number of addicts has increased in recent months at an alarming rate," says Zvi At'al. "As a result of the 'drying up' of opium the new addicts are starting off with the worst of all, heroin."

An addict, recently released from prison, relates: "People unfamiliar with the drug become addicts in jail. What is there for them to do? The jails, particular Daimon Prison, are unruly and the drug is brought in with no difficulty. The inmates try to bring in heroin, because it's hard to detect. They bring it in on the person when returning from free time, they have it passed on during a kiss at a time of visit. There are merchants who will bring you the material if you pay them enough money."

Master Sergeant Ali Dadoon, one of the drug division people known among the addicts and drug merchants for his strictness, knows their life style well. "Most of the addicts are average burglars, such as those who steal electrical appliances, jewelry and cash. Some of them are pimps and some 'pushers' (small time drug merchants dealing with retail sales). Every 'pusher' is an addict who is ready to take the risk and work in order to get his daily dose and the large profits."

What is the measure of the economic damage? Director of the detoxification institute in Jaffe, Dr Mikhail Reiter says: "Beyond the humanitarian considerations, the addicts should be rehabilitated for the monetary consideration. Most do not have legitimate sources of income, and if 3,000 addicts buy drugs for 200 Israeli pounds daily, that comes to 200 million Israeli pounds annually. All this money circulates in the black market and in the other crime circles."

"The addicts sell what they steal to stolen goods merchants at 20 percent of their true value," Ali Dadoon relates. Even if Dr Reiter's calculations are inflated, the monetary damage being caused to the public amounts to tens of millions of pounds annually. The budget of the Ministry of Health for rehabilitation of addicts was only 2.5 million pounds this year.

Superintendent Ar'al tells the story of the penetration of heroin into Israel: "Drug dealing is based on mutual trust. There are no insurance and no banks here. That's why drug merchants deal with their own national groups. Chinese with Chinese, Iranians with Iranians and Israelis with Israelis. The first

wave of criminals which emigrated from Israel to Europe entered the bar and prostitution businesses, businesses which are a base for the traffic of drugs. As in the affair of Amiel and his gang, the criminals who have recently emigrated to Europe entered the drug businesses. Naturally they are trying to bring the drug to Israel, where they have a system of contacts, and have succeeded to a certain degree." The large drug merchants, most of whom are known to the police, finance the large transactions, but they do not come in contact with the drugs, as they are material too "hot" to handle and its users are liable to 10 years' imprisonment.

Heroin is smuggled into Israel in small quantities, up to 200 grams at a time. In most cases the drug is smuggled within the body, by swallowing, in the anus, or in a female courier's genitals. The purchaser is a contact in Amsterdam but the couriers arrive in Israel from other European cities as well in order to reduce suspicion.

"When the material arrives in this country I get my share and immediately pass it on to my workers, I don't even touch the drug," a Jaffa drug merchant relates. "I pay money and a percentage to a person who has conducted the transaction, after which I get money from my workers. You'd like to know how much they make? Let me just tell you that a worker of mine gets--in addition to his daily dosage--2,000 to 3,000 pounds at the end of the week."

The Leviathans

How do the drug merchants divide the "territory" among themselves? "Until recently, each one sold in his own area. A merchant from Karem did not sell in Jaffa, and a merchant from Shabzi did not sell in Hatikva; each one sold in his own quarter. But now new ones, young ones, have come along. They are trying to capture new places and they don't care how. There is more violence. All these recent killings are still not the end."

How is the drug sold to the customer? "If a regular client comes to the worker he goes to the place where he keeps the material--at some ruin, in an electric light pole, under a garbage can, wherever--and fetches it. If an unknown client comes to me I ask if anyone knows him, and if someone knows him, I sell. If I have the slightest suspicion I don't put the material into his hand but instead put it at a designated spot and tell him where the material is, and he is to go there and take it himself. I don't touch the drug, and if it's a detective, I'm covered. All this only for hashish, opium and pills. Heroin is not sold to a client who is not known. No chance at all is taken with this material. Here we're playing with large sums. There is trust only among the merchants, no one hassles anyone else because today it's no problem to liquidate a man."

Of all types of crime, drug traffic is the most difficult to fight. There is no complaint, there is no clear-cut violence and there is no cooperation among victims. On the contrary, "We are blind on this issue more than in the other areas of crime," says Superintendent Ar'al. "The police department can rely on itself only."

To convict a drug merchant, the court demands solid evidence. The drug must be caught on the person of the merchant, and the police department must prove that the money that was found on the suspect has its source in the drug business. Tapped telephone conversations are not admissible in Israeli courts, unlike in Germany where this kind of evidence helped to convict the Israeli gang. Senior police officers complain about the light sentences imposed by judges on drug offenders. In only a few cases have the merchants been punished with the maximum, 10 years imprisonment.

In order to catch drug merchants and smugglers, the police must rely upon informers, principally from the underworld. "It's a complicated business to utilize a police informer," says Inspector Shamash. "He knows that if he's exposed he may be killed by order of the underworld bosses, and I can't pay him a great deal of money. One thousand Israeli pounds for a good piece of information is a great deal of money in the police budget, and must be approved by the commander of the district." The law permits the police department to stage drug purchases in order to trap a merchant, "but I am not always able to bet 100,000 pounds of public funds," says Superintendent Ar'al. "It's quite possible that the set-up will fail and the money will be lost."

Even the personnel of the police intelligence section have liquidity difficulties in their work with informers from the underworld. "As a result of the police bureaucracy, someone cooperating who has brought valid information gets his 500 Israeli pounds 4 months later," says a senior intelligence officer, "obviously under these conditions very few people are willing to work with us."

Personnel of the Drug Division have stepped up surveillance at ports, particularly at Ben Gurion Airport and from time to time they apprehend smugglers. In two recent cases, the courts granted permission to personnel of the Division to search inside the bodies of suspects and in both cases dangerous drugs were confiscated in these searches.

The dearth of information flowing into the police department makes it necessary for it to gather information on its own. The question is whether to go after the leciathans who finance the large transactions or against the smaller merchants and against those who distribute the drug in the streets.

"We have sufficiently accurate information on most of the large and small drug merchants," says Inspector Shamash. "If the police department wants to, it can beat every offender. The only limitation is wherewithal."

The lack of resources impedes the capture of the large merchants. Currently the police department is focussing its war on the small merchants and on elimination of the stations, although this is an interminable war--a new station will always spring up to replace the one that was eliminated as long as there is a demand.

"There are drug distributors only in the three large cities but I know that heroin is being sold in Kfar Saba, too. One of our plainclothesmen visits

his relatives in Beersheba and tells us that the drug is being sold there on street corners, openly," Inspector Shamash relates. It seems that there is no drug involvement in the provincial towns.

Fear

Plainclothesmen of the Drug Division in Tel Aviv work very hard. A 16-hour workday is considered routine. Their motivation is stronger than that of personnel of other divisions. They turn night into day with their work in the area. "They don't take account of hours," says Inspector Sahmash.

Personnel of the Division are frustrated not only because of the low salaries. "In recent weeks we have doubled our staff, today there are about 20 plainclothesmen in the Division, but that is not enough. Even my bosses know that at least 70 plainclothesmen are needed to compete with the drug merchants," says Inspector Shamash. "The investigators spend a great deal of time in the courts, give evidence and seek arrests, and that cuts into their work."

"That isn't all," says Master Sergeant Dadoon. "We don't always have enough vehicles, the drug merchants recognize our cars, there are very few communications instruments and the personnel going out into the area have to squabble over them." The plainclothesmen of the Drug Division don't have regular field glasses, let alone night-sight instruments. They have no photography equipment and use their own cameras, but since they do not have telescopic lenses they are not too efficient.

"In order to have a good catch," says Dadoon, "we have to set up a purchase. I must put on a disguise in order to approach a seller. We don't even have a make-up, wig or eyeglass kit which costs all of several hundred pounds."

In order to stage a drug purchase the Drug Division uses new plainclothesmen whom the sellers do not recognize, but before too long the addicts and drug sellers recognize them and they are "burned" in police jargon.

"The main problem is the neighborhood," says Inspector Shamash. "The drugs are sold in the Shabzi Quarter, in Jaffa, in Karem Hateymanim, in the Hatikva Quarter, in Kfar Shalem, poverty and crime areas whose residents are hostile to the police. Someone sees us at the edge of the Hatikva Quarter and the information is immediately relayed all over the quarter. The merchants drop out of sight. It is difficult to penetrate those places secretly.

"Do you know what happens if a plainclothesman asks a citizen in Hatikva Quarter for use of his dwelling for an observation post? He tells him to get lost! I knocked on hundreds of doors, but the fear of the drug sellers is greater than the will to help the police department eradicate the plague."

8090

CSO: 5300

BELGIUM

ANTWERP CALLED EUROPEAN DRUG CENTER

Brussels LE PEUPLE in French 16 Feb 77 p 2

[Text] As far as the Belgian police is concerned, Antwerp is one of the main centers for drug distribution to the Netherlands, West Germany, Switzerland, Italy and France.

According to Van Hoeylandt, King's counsel at Antwerp, all of Western Europe has been infiltrated by Chinese smugglers with European accomplices, and according to him, their trade can only be stopped by a campaign against them throughout Europe. Along with the recent arrival of large numbers of French prostitutes and their procurers, drug traffic is one of the main concerns of Belgian police and courts, according to the king's counsel, who emphasized that these phenomena are primarily due to the vigorous enforcement beginning in 1975 of the European reciprocal legal assistance in criminal cases.

Chinese Restaurants

Van Hoeylandt pointed out the great number of Chinese businesses of all kinds in Antwerp in particular, some of which are fronts for drug trade. In law enforcement circles there is even a story of a sinologist who saw an inscription in the window of one of these restaurants reading, "Heroin arrival today."

Although hashish cigarettes can be had in Antwerp for about 300 Belgian francs, Antwerp is thought to be more a distribution center than an area of great consumption. Most of the drugs arrive by boat. A few good raids were made on the most innocent-seeming shipments of candles or cauliflowers. Soft drugs like cannabis come mainly from Morocco but also from Pakistan and the Near East.

Hard Drugs

So-called hard drugs, like heroin, arrive along the traditional Asian routes.

There is some question of whether the French "group" is attracted to Antwerp by the drugs. In any case, French street-walkers have been there in abundance

for a year and their trade, according to Belgian police, is closely linked with the drug trade.

During the first few months of 1977, Antwerp authorities have been on the trail of Greeks who arrange marriages; since Greece is not yet a member of the Common Market, Greek prostitutes can easily be expelled. Thus, in order to obtain Belgian nationality for them, their procurers have arranged quick marriages to old men or homosexuals. This "formal" name loaning costs between 10 and 30,000 Belgian francs. Since these fraudulent marriages do not come under the jurisdiction of the law, the authorities are attempting to find ways to prevent them or eventually to annul them.

8693

CSO: 5300

DRUG-TRIAL TESTIMONY REVIEWED

Brussels LE SOIR in French 27-28 Feb 77 p 4

[Report by J.C.B.]

[Text] An unusual, animated, Anglo-Saxon session was held Friday morning in the 22nd Chamber, Mrs Flament-Halsberghe presiding.

Anglo-Saxon: an American who had been held for 3 months and his English fiancée (who was not present) were charged and there was talk of "probation" and of "pleading guilty or not guilty."

Animated: Claude-Serge Aronstein gave two oral depositions and had several disputes with the public prosecutor.

Unusual: for the defense of Lewis Philip Reitz, 28, caught in Zaventem coming from Bangkok with about 10 kilos of marihuana in a false-bottom suitcase, Aronstein argued, or rather announced at length his intention to argue, two unusual theses.

The first is that Reitz acquired the 5,000 marihuana cigarettes for his own personal one year's consumption. The marihuana would act as a tranquilliser for his stomach problems (his first explanation had to do with the social usage of the drug smoked among friends).

The second thesis pertained to the law, to the decriminalization of "Mary Jane." This one would not be in accord with the definitions given by Article 1 and 1A of the Law of 24 February 1921, amended by the Law of 9 July 1975.

To support this case, Aronstein asked that a doctor from the Bordet Institute be permitted to testify. But he had not announced this intention until after he had expounded his theory, in a sort of pre-plea, that marihuana is not a narcotic or psychedelic drug which creates addiction.

The "witness" had not been asked to withdraw. He had therefore heard the questioning of Reitz, the report of Coadjutor Carly which included the report of specialist Dr Voordecker pointing out in particular that marihuana contains tetra-hydro-cannabiol (cannabis sativa), the active ingredient in cannabis and considered a narcotic.

Insisting, Aronstein made his first defense claim based particularly on the European Convention on Human Rights indicating that the "witness" who had not withdrawn was not being called upon to testify on the facts of the case, but to give his opinion as a specialist and in turn to answer the questions raised by the forensic pathologist.

The rejection: the court agreed with the public prosecutor and said that the judge has sole jurisdiction over whether or not a person may testify and that in this instance the court would admit only the written reports (the defense witness had also written one).

An enormous amount of time was spent in these arguments and a continuation seemed shakily set for 4 March, the date being difficult to arrange because of the crowded judicial schedule, when Aronstein announced his intention to appeal the rejection of his witness.

"In that case, it will be a one month or an indefinite adjournment before the appeals court makes a decision." said the judge.

This did not satisfy the defense which dictated additional defense claims to the clerk.

"He is not your secretary, you know," said Mrs Flament-Halsberghe, before noting that release cannot be written into the defense claims but rather must be filed at the office of the court clerk.

Public Prosecutor Reniers complained bitterly of having received the defense claims late and of not having been informed of the intention to produce a witness. Aronstein became annoyed because he had the feeling that the court had an intellectual prejudice against his theories on marihuana and because he would not be allowed to plead his case under more favorable conditions.

Finally after announcing a time for a formal hearing and after having sent a bailiff to tell the judges (sic) who had left to take a breath of air that after thinking it over he would need two of them, Aronstein promised to indicate before Tuesday whether or not he would appeal.

"You say you want to prevent your client from having to spend what might turn out to be a long time in prison before a hearing, but do not forget that your case is delaying the presentation of other cases where there are also prisoners waiting," said the judge, exasperated that the morning had been spent in procedural disputes.

To be continued Friday 4 March, if there is no appeal.

8693
CSO: 5300

BELGIUM

COMBINED OPERATION NETS 2 KILOS HEROIN

Brussels LE SOIR in French 25 Feb 77 p 4

[Text] An important raid was made through the combined efforts of the police aided by personnel of the Second Military Region, the American Federal Narcotics Bureau and the "Diane" task force.

These groups completely surrounded Lambermont Place by surprise. The Diane commandos entered No 15 which was occupied by a 28 year-old Colombian, Leon Martinez Ciro. The man, armed with a pistol, attempted to flee at first, but as soon as he saw the armada mobilized just for his sake, all he thought of was saving his life and he wisely put his hands up.

In the apartment 2 kilos of cocaine were found which the Colombian and his accomplices were selling in the bars in the city at 3,000 francs a gram.

The police also arrested Martinez's first lieutenant, a Spaniard, Gimenez Alonzo Rafael, 44 years-old. This man had false identification papers.

One thing led to another and a third arrest was made Wednesday morning, this time a 55-year-old Belgian, Rudolf Koutijzer, who served as intermediary and occasionally as interpreter.

Two birds were killed with one stone because at the residence of the aforementioned, police found a goodly number of stolen goods, forged papers, weapons...and even plates for counterfeiting.

8693

CS0: 5300

BELGIUM

BRIEFS

GERMAN SMUGGLERS TRIED--On 5 August 1976, two young Germans were arrested at the Vise border crossing point as they were importing 5.25 kilos of hashish into Belgium. One of them, Udo Merheim, 32, of Saarbruecken, appeared in court before Judge Knapen on Monday [14 March]. Merheim's companion had [earlier] been released by decision of the judge, since it then appeared that even though he happened to be smoking some hashish [at the time of his arrest], he was not involved in the transport of the 5 kilos of the drug as charged. This later turned out to be a mistake, for a short time after he had been freed a very compromising document with respect to him was discovered, but too late. Udo Merheim was a member of a band of smugglers, according to Deputy Public Prosecutor Ruwet, so he sought the maximum penalty for both Merheim and his companion (in absentia). The court went along with his request and condemned each to 5 years imprisonment. [Text] [Brussels LE SOIR in French 16 Mar 77 p 4]

CSO: 5300

FINLAND

SINGAPOREAN HEROIN SMUGGLERS SENTENCED

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 8 Mar 77 p 6

[Article: "Court Defended Heroin Decision: International Drug Ring Members Sentenced"]

[Text] The Vanta District Court considered those sentenced in its heroin decisions to be part of an international ring dominating the heroin trade.

According to the decision many individual circumstances related to the smuggling point to this.

At the same time that the district court handed down the sentence to the Singaporeans, it reversed its previous decision to grant the accused a free trial.

The third hearing related to the smuggling in the Vanta District Court was significantly shorter than the previous two hearings.

Special prosecutor, city attorney Jorma Seise, presented the court with an additional report compiled by him about a Silja Line key box found on another man. According to the man he received it years ago while at sea.

In Seise's report the Silja Line stated that the key box in question was sold only since June on the company's ships.

Businessman Jong Hin Kow's attorney, Paul Perovuo, repeated his previous statements on Monday, but stated that his client had smuggled into Finland only 35 percent of the 11.1 kilos of heroin reported by the prosecutor. Perovuo referred to the laboratory studies, in which the heroin content obtained from the narcotic powder was 35-39 percent.

Tarmo Tamminen, the attorney for Kow's wife, for his part pleaded that Buay Choo Teo be set free. He appealed to the fact that she has a child and to his client's innocence.

Correspondence Discussed Once Again

Last time the correspondence by seaman Jong Kam Koh and his wife Ah Looi Lee in prison, which caused a postponement, was once again discussed on Monday.

The prosecutor presented the court with a Finnish translation of a certain letter sent by the man. In the letter he wrote to his wife that their imprisonment was for them "a punishment determined by God." Koh said the purpose of the letter was only to comfort the wife.

Koh's attorney, Leo R. Hertzberg, read a long statement in the court. In the statement he admitted that his client was guilty of flagrant smuggling of narcotics, but stated that the amount was only 2.5 kilos. The basis for his argument was the same laboratory study cited by Perovuo.

In his statement Hertzberg emphasized Finland's transit position. According to him there was not any intent to leave any of the heroin in Finland.

In reference to the prosecutor's demand for a maximum sentence Hertzberg stated that maximum penalties should be used more sparingly than minimum penalties.

In his final statement Seise urged the court to seriously consider the use of a maximum sentence. According to him it is a question of a crime against all humanity.

At the end of his short statement Seise referred to a legal action that was recently reported in the newspapers. In this case it was stated that a certain man was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for murder. "In this it was a question of only one human life, in the case at hand it is a question of thousands."

Long Arguments in the Decision

After a full 2 hours of deliberations district court Judge Varpu Lahti began to read the decision.

First there was a reading of a more than five page long decision on Kow and Teo. In the beginning of the decision there was an account given by the accused about their intent to travel to Brussels through Finland. The purpose of the trip was to take canned Chinese food items to relatives living there.

At the Helsinki airport their baggage was found to contain 45 jars with different preserved food labels on them.

Out of these jars 28 contained heroin amounting to a total of 11.1 kilos.

The district court considered in its decision that Kow's statements are unreliable. The court considered that Kow was fully aware of the content of the jars. The court considered the manner in which the smuggling was carried out to be an aggravating circumstance.

According to the court the concealing of the heroin in the jars is indicative of a calculated deliberation and the accompanying alluding letter indicative of a planned criminal act.

The court also considered Teo to be aware of the smuggling of heroin. According to the decision of the court debarking on the trip was a promotion of smuggling without being, however, a factor in the smuggling.

Free Trial Overturned

The court considered the act of smuggling to be exceptionally offensive, but the pressure of the husband was mentioned to be an alleviating factor in Teo's sentence.

The court obtained a confiscation of 8,450 markkas from them, which according to the decision of the court changes their economic situation to such a degree that the previous decision to grant a free trial was overturned. They were obligated to compensate the state for attorney fees of 5,765 markkas and 213 markkas for a record of the proceedings.

The decision concerning the other couple was nearly to the sentence as long as the first. It also in the beginning included statements by the accused. Already at a previous session Koh admitted his intent to smuggle heroin through Finnish customs. It was to have been delivered to a certain man in Amsterdam.

The customs at Helsinki airport found 7.1 kilos of heroin concealed in between the double bottoms of their two suitcases.

In its decision the courts considered that the observation trip to Finland preceding the act of smuggling and the manner in which the heroin was concealed were indicative of calculated deliberation.

The court considered Lee to be an accomplice due to the fact that when they had purchased the new suitcases to replace old ones in Hong Kong, Koh forbade her from touching the suitcases in any way.

In the opinion of the court this circumstance indicated Lee's awareness of the smuggling of heroin.

The court also considered this case to be exceptionally offensive. The court considered Koh's pressure to be an alleviating factor in Lee's act.

They were also obligated to compensate the state for attorney fees of 5,791 markkas and 195 markkas for a record of the proceedings, which came out of the 7,560 markkas they possessed.

In addition the district court ruled that the confiscated 18.2 kilos of heroin would be forfeited to the state.

All the accused conducted themselves peacefully during the reading of the decision. The women only lowered their heads upon hearing the sentence.

The accused will have to live out their years of imprisonment in Finland. According to the statutes first time offenders have to serve half of their sentence and the remainder under parole, but for the crime in question the accused may have to serve the whole sentence in prison according to a decision of the prison division of the Ministry of Justice.

Much Attention in Singapore

The trial has aroused much attention in Singapore. There the local newspapers have printed many stories about the smuggling of heroin. The newspapers have carried pictures of the houses of the accused and of Alfa-Romeos standing in the yard.

The Singaporeans have obtained letters from relatives to the prisoners. In the letters regret has been expressed for their bad luck, but they have been asked to remain peaceful. In one of the letters the accused were warned not to return to Singapore, since the local narcotics police have supposedly said that more imprisonment is awaiting them.

The matter of dissatisfaction with the court's decision on the part of the condemned three and the prosecutor will be heard at the court of appeals sometime within the current year.

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CSO: 5300

FRANCE

YOUNG COMMUNISTS WARNED OF DRUG-USE DANGERS

Paris L'HUMANITE in French 10 Mar 77 p 12

[Article by Jo Vareille; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] Lyons--The important role played by youth in the Rhone-Alpine area induced Pierre Zarka, secretary of the National Council of the French Communist Youth Movement [MJC], to speak in Lyons about drug problems. At the Press Club he reaffirmed the MJC's stand on this issue and launched an information campaign to be carried out in the coming weeks. To the youth the MJC states: */"Be careful. Drug use is a danger."/* To everyone it states: */"We accuse those in power of not combating drug use!"/*

Let us begin by stating a scientific fact: the drug's harmfulness. Its use can be fatal. We already know of 59 deaths. */"But medical science teaches us that drug absorption--even when moderate--leads perforce to a drastic deterioration of the individual's physical condition. Even when the drug is not fatal, it results in considerable physical and mental decay."/*

The psyche of anyone who uses drugs is immediately affected. */"Doctors indicate a state of permanent withdrawal, of isolation, of a feeling of wasted life, of moral suffocation, of the inability to assume one's responsibilities, of facing up to life."/*

Pierre Zarka refuses to differentiate between mild drugs and hard drugs. */"Everyone,"* he says, *"who uses 'hard drugs' began by using 'mild drugs.'* In fact, the state of mind, the psyche, is the same: recourse to withdrawal, feeling of aggravated isolation. The rest is like a soapboard--varying in the amount of slant in individual cases but always slippery."*/"* It is not by chance that this phenomenon is particularly widespread in the United States, where the social crisis is getting worse without any apparent possibility of change.

/"We doubly warn the youth against the dangers of drug use and the danger represented by all those who hope to find virtues of revolutionary or other types of civilization through drug use. That brings us to the point of denouncing all complacency relative to drug use as being a dangerous and harmful attitude. The safety that the Leftists or the newspaper, LIBERATION,

want to attribute to drug use is not only criminal but also a question of playing into the hands of those in power, who are trying to achieve demobilization."/

The authorities are not combating drug use. The "big shots" are never arrested. In order to collect, process and distribute drugs, they have capital at their disposal to the extent that the "small fry" are infinitesimal retailers working for the profit of the former. Here we see the complicity among businessmen, society people, corrupt police and ordinary people. Why would not these bonds extend to drug traffickers?

/"We are in favor of the most severe suppression of the 'big shots.' On the other hand, the suppression that swoops down upon the victims is not a remedy."/ It gives young drug addicts the feeling of being beyond salvation. It puts them in contact--in prison--with individuals who are sometimes dangerous; it prevents their rehabilitation in society.

It would be better to provide funds for Claude Olivenstein's staff at the Marmottan Drug Addict Rehabilitation Center. /"The government should increase the number of such centers instead of using dramas for political ends, such as the recent disgraceful campaign in which students impersonated drug addicts and teachers represented pushers."/

8568

CSO: 5300

FRANCE

INTERIOR MINISTER WANTS EUROPEAN DISTRIBUTION CENTERS HIT

Paris LE FIGARO in French 24 Feb 77 p 9

[Report by J. L. Meteye on 23 February statement made over Radio Europe I by Interior Minister Michel Poniatowski]

[Text] Michel Poniatowski declared yesterday over Radio Europe I: "Most often drug addicts are people who have problems, they are unbalanced." The Minister of State believes that to solve the problem of drug addiction in France, repressive action is not sufficient. It must be supported by preventive action and aid to drug addicts.

Repression of the drug traffic is imperative, but a preventive effort, medical and psychological aid are also necessary. The families must participate in this effort for the same reason as the doctors and social workers. Poniatowski also said that the number of drug addicts had increased by 1 percent in 1976 and that this phenomenon is all the more serious and worrisome because it is widespread. "A particular effort will be made," he said, "in the suburbs of the big cities where surveillance operations will be conducted day and night."

With regard to the fight against traffickers, it is very difficult nowadays because--as we know--the traffic is now being conducted on a small individual scale by thousands of traffickers, some 4,000 or 5,000 individuals, whom the police call the "ants," who are generally addicts themselves. They carry only small, hard to expose quantities and resell their merchandise only to finance their own vice: what they need for personal consumption. They obtain their supplies essentially in Holland, in Amsterdam, which for some years now has been the supply point for drugs in Europe, and sometimes in West Germany, particularly in the Frankfurt area.

The problem, therefore, must be attacked at its base, at the distribution centers. Since effective intervention is not possible on the Siamese borders of the plains of Anatolia, the problem must be attacked at the distribution centers in Europe. This is feasible because we have special agreements with our Common Market partners in this area. The interior ministers of the nine nations of the Community meet regularly to deal with the specific problem of drugs. Some big decisions, followed by concrete action, should be taken at their next meeting.

The various borders which the traffickers have to cross should also be reinforced and the trains which travel between France and Holland--particularly the Amsterdam-Basel and the Paris-Amsterdam lines--as well as the trains coming from the GRF must be closely watched. In 1976, on the Amsterdam-Paris line alone, French and Swiss customs agents seized 10 kgs of hashish, 201 grams of heroin, 390 LSD tablets, and 5 kgs of cocaine. Moreover, the hard drugs--"brown sugar," LSD, etc--are increasingly taking precedence over the soft drugs--hashish and marihuana.

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CSO: 5300

FRANCE

FRANCE BATTLES TO CONTROL DRUG ADDICTION

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 16 Feb 77 p 33

[Text] Paris--In 1970 there was one recorded death of a drug addict by overdose in France. Last year the number of deaths by overdose in France rose to a record 60.

At France's experimental drug treatment centre, in Marmottan near the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, the director, Dr. Claude Olivenstein, has written a book full of disillusion at what seems to be a losing battle against drugs.

The Marmottan, which treated one patient a day when it opened five years ago, now has an average of 50 and the number of new cases of hard drug addiction registered at the hospital has grown to an average of about 130 a month.

Two recent big round-ups of heroin dealers and users in Nice and Metz have shown the French police that there seems little hope of stopping the flow of Dutch "brown sugar"--heroin treated with caffeine and codeine--which has more than filled the gap in the heroin market caused by the breaking up of the "French Connection" based in Marseille.

The new drug supply, originating from the Golden Triangle near the Laos and Burmese border and shipped to Amsterdam's Chinese community from Singapore, Hong Kong and Bangkok, is brought into France by hundreds of small-time dealers or addicts, often only bringing enough into France to pay for another trip to Amsterdam.

The flow has been catastrophic for the French drug squad which found that, while it could control the work of big gangs, it is overwhelmed by the small-time traffic coming into France by road and rail. The only hope, it feels, is for a vigorous combined operation by Dutch police among the Chinese community in Amsterdam and Asian police in the bases of supply.

Meanwhile, the Marmottan reported that 17 per cent of its patients are now heroin addicts, compared with only six per cent last year, and that "brown sugar" is now sold openly in Paris at \$20 a dose.

A kindly, bespectacled man with a permanently tired expression, Olivenstein gives the impression in his book, "There Are No Happy Drug Addicts," that he is a man caught in an endless problem which has overturned many of his own ideas on liberal treatment.

It was about the same time that the first drug overdose death was reported that opinion polls showed that drug addiction among the young was the first concern of French parents. This persuaded the government to give Olivenstein a vacant clinic and a completely free hand on how to operate it.

The book is not so much a record of treatment but a catalogue of half fulfilled hopes and failures. The most successful part of the centre's history has been the trust it has built up with Paris drug addicts despite the fact that French law is one of the most repressive in Europe as far as drug addicts are concerned.

There is no compulsion to disclose identity, address or family history. Most come for social help such as finding lodgings or to ask for medical care. But in five years the centre has become such a well-known open house that as little as three per cent of patients prefer secrecy.

Apart from that there is little pattern or predictability about the behavior of addicts. Olivenstein recalls that his first client was one of Paris' best-known heroin dealers who felt it was his duty to inaugurate the centre by going through a cure.

The cure was one of the most harrowing the doctor had seen, but despite one or two relapses the man has actually abandoned hard drugs after using them regularly for 10 years. The man became one of Paris' best known shady real estate agents and rides around the city in a Jaguar.

"For us his story remains a success," the doctor said, pointing out that the former addict maintained a "privileged link" with Marmottan.

Most of the cases Olivenstein recalls have been dismal failures. One of his early patients was a beautiful prostitute who worked in Paris' most famous brothel, Madame Claude's, used by foreign VIPs. Instead of taking the treatment seriously the girl brought drugs into the centre and when she was discovered she smashed every window in the place.

The doctor tried to sue for damages but the girl's family said she was protected by highly-placed government officials. She eventually ended up in a general hospital.

One of her friends, another prostitute, who had begged for a cure, finally swore she would not touch drugs again but was found dead within two days from an overdose.

A male patient took up drugs because his mother, the widow of a general, refused to give him one of the family castles. He was eventually sent to

a convalescent centre near Nice where he spent three months as a shepherd before returning to Paris to resume his heroin habit.

A series of violent events at Marmottan, however, has made Olivenstein change the fundamental ultra-liberalism of the centre that allowed patients to come and go when they wanted to and receive friends without restriction.

"There was a danger that Marmottan would finish up as a place where addicts could drop out and drug themselves in peace," said one assistant.

The increasing number of addicts forced the doctor to adopt new rules for a stricter life within the centre but this was largely dictated by the danger to the staff itself. Apart from regular attacks by gangs who want to discourage the work with addicts, the staff has been attacked by patients on a number of occasions.

In one case a nurse was disfigured for life with a broken bottle and later a young man held the staff hostage throughout the night with a gun. Eventually he was overpowered and sent to a psychiatric hospital.

Staff at Marmottan admit being dismayed by the new wave of drugs from Holland as they no longer have time to make contact with many of the young people, usually between 18 and 25, who drift away before they can be helped. The staff also feel they are now having to turn away some of the worst cases as they are too violent.

This is done despite the fact that the staff feel the addicts are unlikely to receive proper treatment from more conventional sources such as relatives or psychiatrists.

One of the most common links Olivenstein has found while treating addicts is a deep anxiety about institutions, parents or psychiatrists who are determined to diagnose the inner conflicts of addicts.

"It is this anxiety which sends them back to drugs," he said.

CSO: 5320

FRANCE

BRIEFS

HEROIN FROM BANGKOK--On 22 March 8 kg of gray heroin were found in the luggage of two Malaysian passengers on their arrival at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport from Bangkok. [Paris FRANCE-SOIR in French 24 Mar 77 p 3 1d]

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

LEGALIZATION OF HEROIN USE PROBLEMATIC

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 26 Feb 77 p 2

[Article by one of our editors: "Legalization of Heroin Encourages Use"]

[Text] Amsterdam, 26 Feb--Supervised supplying of heroin to addicts must be strongly discouraged. "The group involved is not helped; on the contrary, their future chances of recovery are minimized. Other people are encouraged to use it, while it will not be possible to avoid the absorption of problem youth by the black market, which continues to exist in connection with supply. Finally, no decrease of criminality can be expected in this way.

This is the conclusion of a report which several psychiatrists and assistants have sent to the Amsterdam Town Council.

The writers are disturbed about the increasing readiness in the municipality to adopt some form of legal heroin supply for addicts.

Among the signers were D.B.W. Postma, director of the Jellinek Clinic in Amsterdam, Dr A. Rengelink, head of the psychiatric section of GG [expansion unknown] and GD [expansion unknown] in Rotterdam, Tj. Jongsma, psychiatrist at Hoog Hullen in Eelde, P. J. Geerlings, psychiatrist in the drug section of the Jellinek Clinic and the directress and staff of the FZA [Federation of Nursing and Alcoholism Institutions] at Bilthoven.

Legally supplying heroin is called "a destructive action," with which all the experience acquired up till now becomes "superfluous."

The municipality would not show any sign of expertise with a statement of principle about legalization (which has not yet taken place).

The signers pointed out the experiences in England, where the experiments with heroin supply are called unsuccessful. Addicts below the established age limit, above which they could be eligible for a dose of heroin, were dependent on the black market, "which did not disappear as a phenomenon," according to the report which continues.

"On the contrary, the trade spread precisely to younger people than before, while moreover, part of the legally supplied drugs, finally appeared on the same black market via the doctor/patient relationship. Consequently the legally supplied heroin disappeared partly in illegality and likewise in crime."

They also referred to the conclusion of an American investigation of the English system, which declared: a desirable distribution of heroin is impossible.

Heroin is only effective for a few hours. According to the writers of the report, rehabilitation would not succeed, when the addict has to come to the institution four to six times a day to get his dose. When the drug is given to the patient, "you immediately lose the necessary control of the overall situation."

The signers fear that the legal supply of heroin reinforces the addicts' habit and that they are no longer compelled to seek the therapeutic recovery programs, which gradually evolved over the years. Moreover, the so-called decriminalization is not to be expected.

Besides youths who come outside the distribution standards, the signers thought that the black market will also swoop down on "casual foreigners," "transients and problem youth at home and abroad attracted by the system," who never would be eligible for supply. "Black market peddlers and certainly pushers will continue to exist and have even won a commercial argument in addition: The use of heroin cannot be so very harmful, if the state even prescribes it."

The report points out the view of the minister of health, who has proclaimed a "policy of discouragement" regarding smoking, alcohol and narcotics. Supplying heroin is incompatible with this idea and creates confusion, the writers of the report say, who speak of a "demagogic sham solution."

It is confirmed that many addicts already frequented criminal circles before they contracted the habit and that hard drugs are often used in socially unstable circles. "In that respect, there is a parallel with alcohol. Precisely under those circumstances, we can always say that the solving of problems (unemployment, quarrels, poor housing) by using psychotropic substances means the denial of one's self. It is the opposite of a solution.

The report points out that the different treatment methods and their chances of success depend to a great extent on the addict's motivation to stop. According to the report, all means must be used to prevent these motives from practically disappearing. Legally supplying heroin would manage to start such a process among many, "even disregarding the implied encouragement of use, as a result of which it must be feared that a number of people, who up till now had not become addicts, would probably hazard this step. For use would always be sanctioned!" according to the report to the Amsterdam Town Council.

The signers conclude if the city really wants to help solve the problem, then it must encourage the existing drug assistance work. "It knows that the capacity of the treatment programs is too small, in view of immediate need."

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CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

CRI COMMISSIONER DE GOOYER COMMENTS ON BANGKOK MISSION

Amsterdam DE TELEGRAAF in Dutch 27 Jan 77 p 7

[Article by Anne Geloof: "Police Chief de Gooyer our Special Heroin Sleuth in Bangkok"]

[Text] The Hague, Thursday--"One of my most important assignments in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, will be to try to shut off the heroin line from there to the Netherlands as much as possible," according to the 33 year old government police commissioner, G. F. de Gooyer.

This high police official, who is still working now with the CRI [Criminal Investigation Information Service] in The Hague will leave in early March for Bangkok as a special Dutch contact man.

Commissioner de Gooyer is being appointed to the rank of first secretary in the Netherlands Embassy in Bangkok and will acquire diplomatic status.

Experience

"I will work very closely in Bangkok with police and other government authorities who are involved in combating heroin. I will also keep in touch with the special drug contact men of other countries to check the export of heroin from Thailand as much as possible," he declares as a broad description of his assignment.

Police Commissioner de Gooyer does not envisage any great problems for himself during his stay in Bangkok. "It is true I do not know the country, the people and the language, but I do know what heroin is. Consequently I do not feel like I have been thrown to the lions, without further ado, because I do have about 10 years of investigative experience.

"Moreover it happens that I will have a purely coordinating and informational assignment in Bangkok, where I myself will not and cannot make any arrests."

Trials

The special Dutch drug contact man operates from his headquarters in Bangkok. "However, I will also work in various other countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Hongkong. When, for example, a Dutchman is arrested there on suspicion of heroin smuggling, I will go see what comes to light in the trial."

Moreover, Commissioner de Gooyer still finds it difficult to evaluate the rumors that the Thai authorities are not absolutely incorruptible. "I do not yet really know that. I will know if actual corruption exists, only after I have been there a while and if that is so, then we will surely discover it. I will send regular reports on my findings to the Netherlands."

The appointment of Commissioner de Gooyer, who has been director for several years at the CRI of the National Firearms Headquarters and whose family will follow him to Bangkok, is a direct and prompt result of the recent trip of Minister of Justice Van Agt to Thailand.

The Netherlands appears to be Europe's most important heroin center. A large part--about 20,000 kilograms--of the heroin produced in the Thailand, Burma and Laos triangle, turns up yearly in Europe.

8490

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM CHINESE CALLED 'PRIME DRUG SUPPLIERS' TO U.S.

Brussels LE SOIR in French 15 Mar 77 p 4

[Article: "Amsterdam Chinese Will Soon Be Prime Drug Suppliers to U.S."]

[Text] Amsterdam, Mar (AP)--The Netherlands resident Chinese underworld is stockpiling heroin and hopes to supplant Mexico as the prime drug supplier to the United States within 3 years. This is the firm belief of Dutch and American officials working in close cooperation to check the flow of drugs from the Far East into Amsterdam, the new center for the West European narcotics trade.

These officials fear the influx of heroin may double overnight if the Chinese succeed in penetrating the billion dollar (40 billion Belgian francs) American market.

The heroin route has ramifications throughout the world. It now extends from its starting point in the poppy fields of the Golden Triangle--intersection of Burma, Laos and Thailand--to Amsterdam via a network of couriers. If the Chinese in the Netherlands succeed in their plans, they will further extend this route into the United States. Says Gerard Toorenaar, chief of Amsterdam's narcotics brigade: "If this traffic increases in volume, it will be a terrible problem for the Americans. I believe this will happen because the Chinese go where the money is."

Chinese gangsters, organized into rival bands called "triads," decided to establish themselves in the Netherlands because of that country's relatively lax immigration and drug laws. These triads are ritualistic communities comprised of gangs from Hong Kong and Singapore. They are headed by "Godfathers" who direct operations from headquarters in Amsterdam's Chinatown.

Experts on this problem claim the Chinese are waiting until the U.S. market becomes "ripe" for them to move into it. They feel this time is coming now that Mexican and American officials are increasingly tightening controls and steadily reducing the smuggling of heroin across the U.S.-Mexican border. The Chinese will go into action when the scarcity of narcotics drives up their street price.

Chief Toorenaar believes the inadequate number of narcotic agents will preclude the Netherlands from halting this operation when it gets underway.

Dutch officials estimate the amount of heroin smuggled into the Netherlands in 1976 was some 1,500 kilograms. About 90 percent of this amount escaped the attention of customs authorities. Part of it was sold on the European market and the remainder placed in storage.

Police have been unable to infiltrate the three principal triads or several other smaller gangs engaged in the drug trade. They admit there is little chance they will ever manage to penetrate these groups.

The narcotics brigade considers the Chinese to be better organized than the Mexicans. The triads have contacts throughout the world including connections in the United States. Furthermore their heroin is of a higher grade. According to police, the triads have No 3 heroin which when sold on the streets has a purity of 35 percent, whereas the Mexicans supply No 4 heroin which is a mixture and generally has a purity of only 6 percent by the time it reaches the hands of American buyers. Chief Toorenaar believes the triads are planning to send couriers from Amsterdam to South America and Canada via the different European airports. From there, they will distribute the heroin into the United States.

Couriers never know for whom they are working. This makes it impossible for officials to trace this traffic back to the top drug bosses.

To ferry drugs from the Far East to Amsterdam, triads frequently use penniless Chinese recruited in the streets of Hong Kong. These couriers are generally offered the equivalent of 40,000 Belgian francs and a one-way plane ticket if they agree to carry a false-bottomed suitcase to Amsterdam. They are instructed to turn this suitcase over to an unknown person who will contact them. Triads take precautions to ensure safe delivery of these shipments: they furnish the courier only a one-way ticket. The courier's contact in the Netherlands pays him the promised fee and gives him a return airline ticket.

The narcotics brigade is of the opinion that for the Netherlands-United States leg of the route, the triads will try to recruit young Americans or European couriers likely to attract less attention when going through customs. One single suitcase shipment frequently has a street value of 3.2 million Belgian francs. The heroin is transported in small packets each about the size of a tea bag. These are hidden in a false-bottom suitcase and pass unnoticed unless the customs man slashes the suitcase open from the outside with a knife.

Couriers use many other subterfuges, however. For instance, Dutch police seized a teddy bear filled with heroin. Another time, they arrested a young Chinese woman arriving from the Far East who had cashed a bag of heroin worth 100,000 Belgian francs in a part of her body. In Brussels, airport police and customs officials have uncovered drugs in the most unbelievable hiding places: in fruits, toys, and even in condoms.

Chief Toorenaar admitted he felt powerless. "We know the Chinese are stockpiling heroin somewhere," he said. "It is easy to hide and once it has been brought into the country, it is almost impossible for us to find it. Our current seizures are like a drop in the ocean."

NETHERLANDS

CHINESE HEROIN SYNDICATE SMASHED

Amsterdam DE TELEGRAAF in Dutch 24 Jan 77 pp 1, 3

[Report: "Action in Six Countries Against Heroin Empire; Police Crush Chinese Gang; Arrests in The Netherlands Also"]

[Text] Amsterdam, Monday --A worldwide chase by narcotics investigators from six countries has led in the past few days to the downfall of one of the most powerful Chinese heroin syndicates.

Fourteen arrests in 6 countries terminated the drug empire led by the King Chun Ha couple from Hong Kong, which in 17 months reached a turnover of 3 billion dollars.

During that time no less than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of heroin was exported from Thailand to Canada, Australia, Japan and the Netherlands.

"We really caught some big fish here. For the first time in the history of heroin, international cooperation has led to such a result," said contented police officials yesterday in Vancouver, Hong Kong and Denmark.

Ship

The case started rolling in Vancouver, where currently the Dutch heroin hunters Toorenaar and Van Straten are also staying. There it was discovered that large quantities of heroin were transported by ship from Hong Kong and Bangkok to Canada.

Secret agents were able to penetrate the organization operating in Canada and discovered that the Chinese secret association had branches in numerous other countries, including the Netherlands and Denmark, which were supplied with the deadly narcotic by air.

Amsterdam

The information which was gathered was passed on to the narcotics brigades in the countries involved so that arrests could be made there also.

But in order to prevent the leaders of the syndicate from escaping, arrests were delayed until King Chun Ha could be arrested in Hong Kong.

At first it appeared he could not be located, but the Amsterdam police discovered that the man had been residing in Amsterdam for some time "for business."

Since he had not committed any punishable crimes here, nothing could be done but to watch "Mr Big" closely and to inform colleagues in Hong Kong about his return to the British crown colony.

Thus on his arrival at the airport it was possible to arrest him forthwith.

Imprisoned

From that moment on other members of the gang were imprisoned also in the United States, Denmark, Thailand and the Netherlands.

In addition to King Chun Ha, two adjutants, Chan Joe Woi (46) and Wong Kwok Hang (37) also landed in jail.

The wife of the leader almost managed to escape. On boarding a ship to Macao she too, however, was stopped by the police.

8700

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM POLICE ARREST HEROIN KING

Amsterdam DE TELEGRAAF in Dutch 29 Jan 77 pp 1, 7

[Text] Amsterdam, Friday --The Amsterdam narcotics brigade has bared one of the largest heroin smuggling routes of recent years with the arrest of two Chinese and two Amsterdammers.

Last Wednesday the 30-year-old Chinese S.C.T. who recently ranked as one of the biggest heroin kings, was arrested in front of his home in Amstelveen.

Meanwhile T. has admitted amongst other things that he was the principal financier of the gigantic lot of heroin (138 kilos, with a current resale value of at least 15 million guilders) which was intercepted by the Bangkok criminal investigation department at the Don Muang airport in Thailand last August.

On that occasion two Netherlands were arrested who were supposed to bring the heroin, hidden in oil drums, to the Netherlands.

On the basis of the declarations by this pair, 37-year-old Hans C, son of a lawyer in Sneek, and 26-year-old Andreas M. from Amsterdam, and through close cooperation with the Thai narcotics brigade, the Amsterdam police this week were able to proceed to the arrest of the big man responsible for the transport of many hundreds of kilos of heroin, which in the past years made Amsterdam the most important heroin center in the world.

Last September the Amsterdam narcotics chief, Chief Inspector K. Sietsma, left for Bangkok in order to help the Thai police in the interrogation of the Netherlands arrested at the airport. Andreas M. who the police knew maintained close contacts in Amsterdam with Chinese underworld figures, at first continued stubbornly to deny having anything to do with the transport of the 138 kilos to the Netherlands.

It appeared from an investigation initiated by Sietsma in the hotel where Andreas M. had stayed during his stay in Bangkok that M. had had regular contact with the 30-year-old Chinese T., director of a travel agency in Amsterdam. Confronted with this new information, M. finally confessed that T. was the man who arranged for the substantial heroin shipments to Amsterdam.

After the failure of the last shipment whereby the Netherlands were arrested, T. in August fled to Sweden. When he made a little trip to the Netherlands last week for "business" he was instantly apprehended. Aside from T, who made a complete confession, his right hand in Amsterdam, 25-year-old S. I. W. Verder, was arrested, and the 39-year-old fishmonger F. R. and 40-year-old Wim E., who called himself an "economist," were detained in the capital the day before yesterday. The fishmonger confessed having aided in the smuggling of at least 140 kilos of heroin into our country during the past year, which was never seized by the police.

For his services the fishmonger received 135,000 guilders.

Economist Wim E. in past years performed various courier services for the Chinese travel agency director.

The Hague, Saturday.

8700
CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

DUTCH DRUG SMUGGLERS CAUGHT IN BANGKOK

Amsterdam DE TELEGRAAF in Dutch 31 Jan 77 p 3

[Article by DE TELEGRAAF's special reporter: "Trial of Heroin Smugglers Postponed"]

[Text] Sneek, Monday--"The biggest drug smuggling operation of the century," in which the native of Amsterdam, Andre Meijer (25) and Hans Cornelius (37) from Sneek were caught on last 30 August in Bangkok, will not come up before the Bangkok court earlier than 3 March.

For Cornelius, whom the Chinese mafia had hoodwinked into believing that he could transport heroin shipments in the planes of its "West Coast Aviation" from Thailand to the Netherlands, was given up till that time to find a Dutch lawyer, who can defend him on the spot.

Thereby the judicial authorities want to discredit the Dutchman's claims that he cannot get a fair trial in Thailand.

Now that the financier of the smuggling plot, the Chinese "Tai Lo" (big boss) Johnny Tan, the official director of Katay Travel Service, which specialized in Asiatic trips, has been arrested in Amsterdam with several accomplices, it is very probable that Meijer and Cornelius will soon see the Netherlands again. That will be to let them testify here against Tan.

After the trial, the pair would then have to fly back to Thailand to serve the rest of their time--40 years imprisonment is expected on the spot.

8490
CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

POLICE CONFISCATE HUGE QUANTITY OF MOROCCAN HASHISH

Amsterdam DE TELEGRAAF in Dutch 31 Jan 77 pp 1, 3

[Report by Anne Geelof and Huib Boogert: "Ship with $4\frac{1}{2}$ Metric Tons of Hashish in Police Trap"]

[Text] Heinkenszand, Monday --The police in Zeeland last weekend made the biggest hashish-haul in the Dutch history of soft drugs. In the middle of the night a small army of policemen dropped in on the isolated farm of farmer D. C. B. (41) in Heinkenszand and found over 4,500 kilos of Moroccan hashish.

The enormous lot, primarily intended for transshipment to Belgium, has an estimated trade value of over 10 million guilders.

Sixty policemen were involved in the nocturnal action and for the first time a helicopter from the federal police was utilized. Five arrests were made.

At 0400 hours Saturday morning at the farm the totally surprised 34-year-old Akkie P. from Terneuzen and farmer D. C. B. (41), who was not known by the police, were detained.

The 37-year-old Sijefke F. from Hulst, also staying there, one of the biggest hashish- financiers and smugglers, managed to escape but was apprehended some time later at a hiding place in Goes.

At the Putten border crossing the Belgian military police arrested two Belgians -- 30-year-old J. E. from Westende and 28-year-old F. de C. from Antwerp -- who were involved in the re-loading and transportation of the drugs.

Tip

For over a week the district criminal investigation department in Zeeland knew that the gigantic lot of hashish was en route from Morocco to our country aboard a cutter. Thanks to an anonymous tip, almost certainly originating from a competing hashish-smuggling gang, it was possible to set up a well thought-out trap.

Sailing under the Panamanian flag the smuggling cutter "Latfia" (200 tons) on Friday night sailed up the Oosterschelde and docked in the Flipjes-harbour, a wharf of the Department of Public Works in North Beveland.

During the last part of the trip, the little boat had been constantly watched closely from the air and also at sea by Belgian and Dutch police.

While numerous concealed policemen were watching with modern equipment the load of hashish -- over 150 packs of around 30 kilos -- was transferred into a truck at around 2200 hours Friday night.

"We did not yet strike at that time, because we wanted to arrest the principals also," said the chief of the district police, Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Lanting.

The drug shipment was followed however and watched with extreme caution. The trip led to South Beveland where the hashish was stored in a large barn on an isolated farm. Sjeffe F. and his faithful adjutant Akkie P. arrived there and inspected the lot. In the residence of farmer B. they had a drink, after which the company went to bed.

Surrounded

Meanwhile the police had laid a cordon around the farm and a helicopter from the federal police had taken off from the Rotterdam airport, Zestienhoven.

Around 0400 hours in the morning they struck.

While the helicopter lit up the farm and barn with strong flood lights, the massive police raid followed.

Akkie P. and farmer B. fell sleepily into the hands of the police, but Sjeffe F. managed to escape. He smashed a bedroom window on the ground level and fled on bare feet. Despite the flood light of the helicopter hovering above the farm, Sjeffe managed to remain outside of the beam and to break through the police cordon.

"We knew however from previously gathered information that Sjeffe had some hiding places and later on we were able to arrest him in Goes," said the police.

With the arrest of Sjeffe, his hashish smuggling empire was dealt an enormous blow for the 2nd time in barely 4 months.

At the end of September last year the district criminal investigation department from Dordrecht made a raid on a farm in Hellevoetsluis, where at that time 3,500 kilos (the record now broken) of Lebanese hashish was confiscated. Sjeffe was arrested at the time, as was his Amsterdam co-financier Ferdi F. (37). But Sjeffe was free again in November.

For some months Sjeffe seems to have been the "victim" of a competing hashish-smuggling gang. The hashish case in Hellevoetsluis also was already known by the police, even before the drugs had arrived.

The police are taking into account that between the end of September last year and this weekend Sjeffe F. has wiped out the "loss" of that time by regularly having large shipments of hashish delivered by the cutter "Latfia."

By concentrating on the two principal suspects the police have not yet been able to overtake the crew of the cutter "Latfia." After unloading the drugs the four shipmates, among them a Belgian, were able to get away because the police had already withdrawn. They are still being sought.

8700

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

BRIEFS

PVDA SUGGESTS FREE HEROIN FOR ADDICTS -- Amsterdam, Saturday. The PvdA [Labor Party] congress is of the opinion that the government should supply hard drugs such as heroin and LSD free to addicts. The congress expects that through this the wind will be taken out of the sails of the drug trade it finds so reprehensible. The PvdA is of the opinion that a firm line has to be taken with the trade in these hard drugs. Soft drugs such as marihuana should, according to the congress, get the same treatment as alcoholic beverages and thus should be allowed to be sold in ordinary stores to anyone who is older than 16. [Text] [Amsterdam DE TELEGRAAF in Dutch 28 Jan 77 p 1] 8700

CSO: 5300

PORTUGAL

BRIEFS

HASHISH CONFISCATED--Lisbon (REUTER)--Narcotics agents here have arrested 14 people including two U.S. citizens and a Canadian on charges of belonging to an international drug ring and confiscated \$119,000 of their hashish. Arrests were made over the past two weeks at Lisbon airport and hotels in connection with the 135 pounds of hashish destined for the United States, Canada and Spain. Eight Spaniards, a Frenchman, an Argentine and a Portuguese were also arrested. No names have been revealed. [Text] [Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 7 Mar 77 p 2]

CSO: 5320

SPAIN

BRIEFS

HASHISH FOUND ON YACHT--Palma de Majorca, Spain (REUTER)--Police found nearly three tons of hashish aboard a British-registered yacht here and arrested two French crewmen, a spokesman said yesterday. He said the hashish was estimated to be worth about \$4 million and was one of the biggest drug hauls made in Spain. The yacht, the Southampton-registered Cynosure, tried to get away when police were about to board it on Wednesday, but it was stopped after a short chase by police speed boats in Palma harbor. [Text] [Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 4 Mar 77 p 10]

CSO: 5320

SWEDEN

HEROIN VICTIMS FOUND UNCONSCIOUS IN STOCKHOLM

Stockholm EXPRESSEN in Swedish 1 Mar 77 p 10

[Article by Ulla Barvefjord and Ulf Skagemark: "Lethal Dope Sold in Sergels Square; Five Hospitalized Yesterday"]

[Text] Five heroin users were found unconscious yesterday afternoon in downtown Stockholm. They were taken by ambulance to a hospital, where one of them later died.

The five heroin victims were all found at different locations within a limited area downtown.

All of them also collapsed within a period of only one and one-half hours.

The first call came at 1350 hours. The last one at 1520. By then, five young people had been taken to the hospital.

A 20-year old woman was found in the ladies' room of the subway station at Sergels Square.

Unconscious in the Rest Room

Two people, a 23-year old and his equally old friend, were found unconscious in the garage at Ahlens.

A 35-year old man was lying in a basement apartment at 20 Regeringsgatan.

A 22-year old Youth lay unconscious in the rest room of the restaurant at Ahlens department store. He later died at Serafimer Hospital.

That so many addicts have become ill within a small area and within a short period indicates that they have used the same kind of heroin.

The police suspect that they have bought the heroin from the same pusher. The heroin was evidently mixed with some poison.

Reduces the 'High'

It is not unusual that the heroin is cut. This can be done partly to reduce the degree of concentration. In that case flour or some similar harmless powder is used.

Sometimes more dangerous substances are added, for example strychnine, a rat poison.

The purpose of these additives is to increase or delay the effect.

A pusher may also consciously mix in substances which shorten the "high." The addict then needs more heroin faster. And the pusher gets to sell more.

There have recently been many victims of heroin. The most common cause of death has been overdoses.

The reason why drug addicts easily risk taking an overdose is that they often do not know what degree of concentration is contained in the dose of heroin they have bought.

The condition is critical for two of those hospitalized.

11949

CSO: 5300

SWEDEN

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY TREATMENT FOR ADDICTS DISCUSSED

Stockholm EXPRESSEN in Swedish 2 Mar 77 p 9

[Article by Gosta Ehnquist: "The Young Addict Must Be Saved Within 10 Minutes -- After That, All Is Too Late"]

[Text] This is the waiting room of death. . A small, naked room at Serafimer Hospital in Stockholm.

Thirty victims of heroin have been brought here for emergency treatment this year alone. It is a terrible record.

Two died, several have become brain-damaged.

Most of them are marijuana smokers, who have been coaxed into taking an overdose of heroin. A poison which is like a horse's kick against the heart and brain, 200 times more powerful than marijuana.

"When the addict gets the heroin kick, we have 10 minutes to save him," says Dr Johan Lagerfelt at the Serafimer Hospital.

He was on duty Monday when the hospital received six victims of heroin.

"Five of them were still breathing. We used nalone, an antidote which completely breaks down the effect of the heroin."

"It is so effective that the sick person wakes up immediately and often gets withdrawal symptoms after only 10 minutes," says Dr Lagerfelt.

But if 10-15 minutes have already passed, the victim has almost certainly suffered brain damage. And if the damage is severe, the patient dies within a few hours.

This was the case with the sixth victim last Monday. For nearly 2 hours doctors, nurses and assistants fought for his life.

But the help had arrived too late.

Only a few days previously another heroin victim had been admitted under the same conditions.

The brains of the two victims were already dead. A few hours after the treatment their hearts ceased beating. One of them was 22, the other 23.

"None of the 30 who have been brought to Serafimer Hospital so far this year has been over 26 years," says Dr Sture Muntzell to the EXPRESSEN.

He has compiled statistics on the hospital's work with drug addicts. The hospital serves central Stockholm. There is Sergels Square, Hotorget, the central subway station and the rest rooms of the Ahlens department store, the most well-known drug places in town.

"We have talked to the addicts. They speak increasingly often of heroin smoking," he says.

This is the method of the heroin dealers to rapidly get users to switch from the cheaper marijuana to the expensive, lethally dangerous heroin.

Addiction is extremely rapid. The heroin smoking becomes sniffing, sniffing turns into a hypodermic needle. It takes a week, 14 days.

A juvenile gang in Malmo started the heroin smoking in 1975. Last year, some marijuana gangs in Stockholm had also switched. Today it is like an epidemic.

During January-February of last year the Serafimer Hospital received four heroin victims. This year, 30 during the same period.

In the last 10 days alone, 13 victims have been brought in. And this is only for one of Stockholm's hospitals.

Being unaccustomed to the horribly powerful poison, the addicts often take an overdose. They cannot tolerate the violent "kick" which is caused by the smoking.

What kind of help can we give them? As soon as we revive them they run out and start over again. No one takes care of them. Damn it, we are helpless," says Dr Johan Lagerfelt.

He criticizes the law which says that a drug addict must seek help by himself, no one can force him.

"How will an addict have the strength to seek treatment voluntarily," he asks and tells about a drug addict who was admitted to the emergency ward unconscious.

He became furious because the physicians woke him out of his dream world. He had paid 400 Swedish crowns for the heroin, felt cheated and started to make trouble.

"Instead of helping him, we were forced to call the police. No, this is no treatment. We cannot help."

11949

CSO: 5300

SWEDEN

SWEDEN ASKS HOLLAND FOR EXTRADITION OF DRUG DEALER ACTIVE IN SWEDEN

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 11 Mar 77 p 3

[Article: "Police Dog Got Paucksch in Basement"]

[Text] Extradition of narcotics king Karl Paucksch, who was seized in Heerlen in south Holland the night before Thursday, will be demanded. The Dutch authorities are expected to agree to this demand. Chief prosecutor Eric Ostberg in Stockholm will also submit an arraignment request to the Stockholm district court. Paucksch is suspected of aggravated narcotics crimes. The police believe they have proof that Paucksch has had connections with the lot of 25 kilograms of amphetamines which was confiscated in an automobile outside Trollhattan last week.

Paucksch is expected to be extradited shortly and will be placed in the Kronoberg jail in Stockholm.

Karl Paucksch was arrested in Heerlen, after the police had received a tip that he was at a discotheque in the city. When the police came to pick up Paucksch, he managed to disappear. He hid in a nearby building but police found him there.

Paucksch was primarily seized not because he was sought by Swedish police but because he was staying in Holland illegally.

It was Paucksch's girl friend, among others, who is being detained by police in Stockholm, suspected of having helped Paucksch to stay hidden in Sweden, who indirectly assisted the police in finding Paucksch in Holland.

The woman, who the other day voluntarily went to the police, admitted that she had been with Paucksch recently in Sweden. She said, among other things, that the couple parted ways in Travemunde.

Both the Swedish and Dutch police, who have cooperated in the search for Paucksch, thereby suspected that he tried to enter Holland.

The report that Paucksch had been caught in Holland therefore did not come as a surprise to the narcotics police in Stockholm.

To all appearances, Karl Paucksch will be extradited to Sweden for the second time by the Dutch authorities. He still has a long time remaining of his 8-year prison sentence.

It was a little more than a week ago that the police got a tip that Karl Paucksch was staying in Sweden.

After a stay of several days in Stockholm, he traveled with the arrested woman via Oslo to Gothenburg and then to Nol south of Trollhattan. There, the couple registered at a boarding-house. Afterwards, they continued by car, train and ferry to Travemunde. The woman returned to Stockholm, while Paucksch entered Holland by car and train. The seizure of Paucksch took place totally without dramatics, according to sources.

11949

CSO: 5300

TURKEY

RECORD QUANTITY OF HEROIN SEIZED, SMUGGLER ARRESTED

Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish 2 Mar 77 pp 1, 6

[Article by Kadir Can]

[Text] Mehmet Karadurmus, who brought 5 kilos of heroin--which he had secured from Dogu Beyazit--to Istanbul, was caught in a house in Beykoz [a quarter in Istanbul] after close pursuit by the detectives of the Istanbul Narcotics Bureau.

Policemen, disguised as workers, besieged the house and put it under surveillance. Smuggler Mehmet Karadurmus, together with his friend, Huseyin Girit, came to the house in a late-model Mercedes....

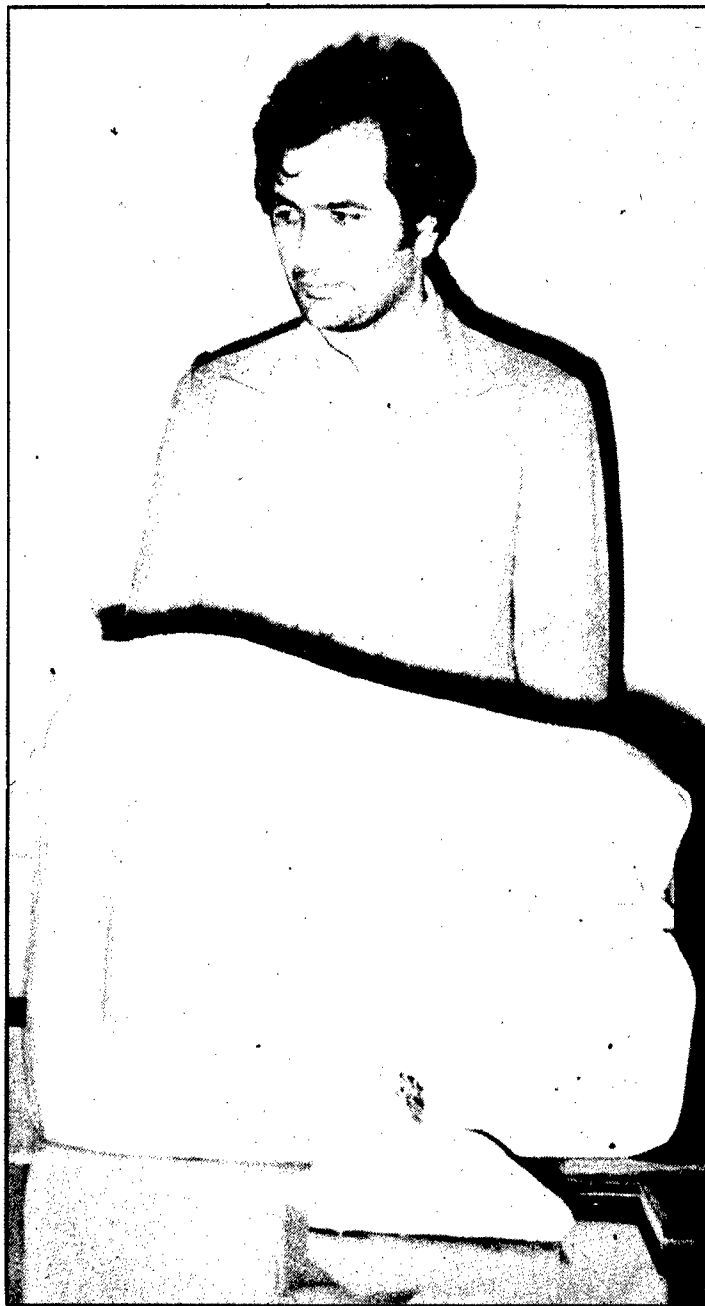
The detectives of the Narcotics Department, working meticulously on a tip they received 2 months ago, have uncovered the biggest heroin smuggling case of the last 20 years.

After 2 months of investigations, the detectives determined that Mehmet Karadurmus had hidden the heroin he had secured from Dogu Beyazit in his house in Beykoz. The detectives tried to make contact with Mehmet Karadurmus but they were unable to do so. Karadurmus had consistently evaded capture and for this reason his apprehension--redhanded--was delayed.

The detectives, disguised as workers, placed Karadurmus under close surveillance near his house. In the end, he was caught when he came to the house in a Mercedes with his friend Huseyin Girit. In the ambush that followed, 5 kilos of heroin, in special bags, were found in the house.

Officials of the Narcotics Department have stated that this is the first time since 1950 that 5 kilos of heroin have been seized in one lump. It was also stated that 5 kilos of heroin has a value of 2 million Turkish liras in Turkey and a value of 7 million Turkish liras outside Turkey.

As is known, a law promulgated in 1950 ruled that heroin smugglers will be sentenced to death. Since then the number of people dealing with heroin has progressively decreased.



For the first time since 1950....

The captured heroin smuggler Mehmet Karadurmus is seen with 5 kilos of heroin--in the bag--at Istanbul Security Directorate. By a law promulgated in 1950, it was decided to sentence manufacturers and smugglers of heroin to death. Since then heroin smuggling has decreased.

TURKEY

BRIEFS

OPIUM POWDER SEIZED--Istanbul Security Directorate Narcotics Bureau officials have said that some 26 kilograms of opium powder has been seized. Two networks involved in opium smuggling have been discovered in Istanbul. Four persons thought to be connected with the incident have been taken into custody. [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 15 Feb 77 TA]

POLICE SEIZE NARCOTICS--Ten kilos of morphine base here seized in Ulubey, a district of Usak, and 21 kilos of hashish were seized in Iskenderun, a district of Hatay. TRT correspondents report that units from the Manisa gendarme command, acting on a tip, raided a house in Ulubey and found 10 kilos of morphine base in nylon bags buried in the ground. Three people have been taken into custody. The police also found 20 kilos of powdered hashish ready for smoking in a house in the Cay quarter of Iskenderun in Hatay. It is reported that three persons were taken into custody in connection with this incident. [Text] [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 16 Feb 77 TA]

OPIUM CONTROL--It was reported that Turkey is strictly adhering to the control of opium poppy cultivation. The UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs states in its report for 1976 issued in Geneva that effective measures were taken by the Turkish Government in this field with praiseworthy results. The report adds that the Turkish Government has taken all measures to control opium poppy cultivation and will further intensify them. No information has been received from other governments, the report says, that opium of Turkish origin has been seized. This is a remarkable achievement, the report states. It also says that the measures taken to control opium poppy cultivation in Turkey in 1976 have been as effective as in 1975. [Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 0530 GMT 3 Feb 77 TA]

CSO: 5300

HEROIN ADDICTS WORRY UK AUTHORITIES

Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 6 Mar 77 p 7

[Article by David Clark; see JPRS 68647, 17 February 1977, No 285 of this series, page 100]

[Text] A 30-year-old Chinese woman involved in a heroin smuggling racket in London was sentenced to 14 years in jail recently. This loathsome trade is on the increase in many countries and the authorities are understandably concerned. A Gemini News Service correspondent David Clark reports on the growing heroin problem in Britain.

The scene: Denman Street, a small road running behind London's world-famous Piccadilly Circus. Crumpled on the pavement in front of a taxi-firm's office is a bundle in a duffle coat. It is the object of passing interest for the shoppers and workers hurrying home.

On closer inspection, the bundle turns out to be a young girl, her unconscious face oblivious to the world. Standing above her is an equally young policeman talking into his pocket radio.

Two other young constables walking on the other side of the street shout across to ask what's wrong. "Another overdose," he replies. "I've called for the ambulance."

It is still a mercifully rare sight in London to see a youngster strung out on heroin, or overdosed to oblivion in the gutter. Rare, but not unknown any more. London is not New York or Hong Kong or even yet Amsterdam, but over the past two years there has been a small, but chillingly significant growth of interest in heroin.

The policemen round Piccadilly know about it and don't like it. The doctors at two or three central London hospitals know about it too and like it even less. For every overdosed addict they pump out and put to bed in the cleanliness of the hospital sheets, they know there are others out on the streets shooting up with instant happiness and risking death.

Back in the 1960s, Britain became aware that it had the start of a heroin problem and took prompt action that evoked world-wide interest. The brain committee examined the growth of the addiction and pin-pointed one of the major sources of heroin as a handful of doctors who were mercenary, careless or over-philanthropic about their heroin prescriptions.

Given Free

The excess heroin prescribed by the doctors and given out free by the National Health Service found its way onto the open market where it was sold at street prices. New addicts came onto the scene with new habits and formed a small queue in the doctors' waiting rooms. And so the vicious circle grew.

The government stepped in with the drug dependency clinics which registered all the addicts, prescribed exactly the amount of heroin they needed, and tried to wean them away from the habit.

One of the methods they used was to prescribe methadone instead of heroin. Methadone satisfies the craving of the addict, but doesn't give the "rush" or satisfaction that heroin gives.

In addition, to register for the clinic meant acknowledging to oneself that the addict was not simply someone out for a weekend thrill, but was indeed addicted. In other words, the clinics went some way to solving the physical problems but they did not satisfy the psychological ones.

Into the gap in the market place came Chinese heroin--or Number Three mixture. There has been a tradition among the Chinese community in London of smoking opium. Originally brought into China by the British colonialists, the opium habit has grown outside the Chinese mainland in the migrant Chinese communities.

Tolerated

Among the Chinese seamen of London's dockland in the forties, fifties and sixties, the police had tolerated opium smoking as long as it did not spread into the British community.

In the early 1970s, a number of forces collided in London and started the escalation in addition that the young girl on the ground in Denman Street represents.

The police started to crack down on the marijuana and cannabis dealers, while the drug culture continued to grow. Demand increased, supply decreased and prices hit the roof. An ounce of cannabis cost roughly K15 in 1970 and today is around K54. A grain of heroin costs about K54 on the open market too, so while most cannabis smokers probably gave up or turned to alcohol, a small minority of those used to drugs turned to the occasional use of heroin.

Prescribed

They represented a new market on top of the addict seeking a "rush" in addition to his state-prescribed methadone. Police corruption before Sir Robert Mark came to lead the Metropolitan Police also allowed the black market to grow.

Finally, after many years of corruption, the government in Hong Kong began to crack down on the Triads--the Chinese secret society who had organised much of the drug dealing and every other form of criminal activity. Some of the leadership and many of the young followers fled to Europe and America as a result and some ended up in London.

The heroin, which already came into the country from Hong Kong and Malaysia as crude smoking mixture for the small Chinese community, began to flow in larger quantities for the use of addicts in Britain, and to be transhipped for the valuable markets in Europe and the United States.

Refined

Sometimes it is refined by chemists in London or Amsterdam, at other times it comes in pure from laboratories situated in the Malaysian jungle--particularly outside Ipoh. One of the main channels of organisation has been the Triads, operating with their own codes and in strict secrecy.

The result of this new activity has been documented by SCODA--the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse--which recently issued its annual report.

"The most worrying feature," it noted, "is the number of new addicts being 'notified' each year." In 1975, new addicts amounted to 926, six per cent above the previous year. At the end of 1975, 1,954 addicts were registered. And since the last year's figures were issued, 483 have been sent to prison and 69 have died.

Street workers estimate that 5,000 people are casual users of heroin. If they are added to the new addicts registered last year, and the 923 noted by SCODA as "no longer seeking treatment," they begin to represent a reasonable market at K54 a gramme. And it is this growing market that has been occupying the British courts for the past few months.

Syndicate

The most recent case, which finished with a 14-year prison sentence for a 30-year-old Chinese woman, May Wong, involved a syndicate of 14 people in the heroin business.

They had been caught because Miss Wong kept a notebook with full details of all her drugs dealings, her customers and their addresses. The notebook was a key element in the police prosecution and the sentence brought

to an end the current series of drug-related crimes in London which had also involved robbery, murder, protection, blackmail and personal violence.

Gratifying though the series of cases has been to the police squad which brought the criminals to court, there is plenty of evidence that the problem has not yet been solved.

One of the major connections has been between London and the relatively easy city of Amsterdam. But now the Dutch police have started to crack down on dealings there and senior London officers have been quoted as saying they fear that the Triad gangs might move their base of European operations to London.--GEMENI.

CSO: 5300

END